

# Shepherd's Bush

## CHRONICLE



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## TRAVEL OFFERS SPECIAL



A Hammersmith community group has paid special tribute to the Queen – by planting a memorial tree last month to mark her landmark 90th birthday. The liriiodendron tulipifera sapling, donated by the Hammersmith Society, has been planted at Wormholt Park in Shepherd's Bush. It is hoped the tree will bloom with colourful leaves and scented flowers in years to come. Cllr Mercy Umeh, centre, mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham, attended the planting ceremony with other dignitaries

# £10k reward to help catch Salim's killer

### Charity offers incentive for crucial evidence after fatal shooting in December

BY JACK DIXON

jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A REWARD of £10,000 is being offered for vital information about the death of Salim Coulter as police continue to probe leads more than a month after the fatal shooting.

The Crimestoppers charity has put up the cash incentive in a plea for crucial evidence in the investigation.

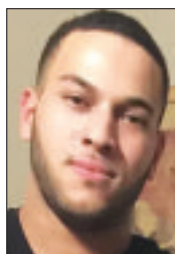
The 24-year-old from White City was shot in the head moments after leaving Jerky's Caribbean restaurant in Fulham. He was shot as he climbed into the front passenger seat of a friend's car after they stopped for food.

Police have charged 30-year-old Omar Hutson, of no fixed address, with murder and a trial is due to begin in June.

But police are continuing to search for the weapon and have



Police probe the scene where Salim Coulter, right, died in December



urged witnesses to come forward with essential information.

Crimestoppers says it will hand out the five-figure reward for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or people responsible.

Roger Critchell, the charity's director of operations, said: "Salim had just got into a friend's car when a man in dark clothing ap-

peared from the shadows, opened the car door and fired one shot. The victim sustained a fatal injury and he was pronounced dead at the scene.

"We are offering a substantial reward for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or people responsible and urge anyone with information to contact Crimestoppers anonymously.

ously. We don't ask for any personal details, you won't have to speak to the police and you won't have to go to court.

"Just tell us what you know, not who you are."

Salim lived with his mother in White City and was training to become a gas engineer.

He had been out with a friend on the evening of December 5 when he stopped at the restaurant in Waltham Grove.

The shooting happened yards from the junction with North End Road – one of the borough's busiest shopping destinations.

A spokesman for Scotland Yard said: "Detectives continue to appeal for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact the incident room on 020 8785 8099."

Crimestoppers can be contacted anonymously on 0800 555 111 or online at crimestoppers-uk.org.

## Mental-health campaigners receive New Year accolades

MANY of London's leading mental-health campaigners have been rewarded in the New Year's Honours for their efforts to fight stigma around the illness.

Allies of the Duchess of Cambridge in her crusade to conquer the mental-health crisis were among those to be 'gonged' last week.

The high-profile awards come as a boost to the *London Weekly News Change Is Possible* mental-health campaign, which is making huge strides to improve the lives of vulnerable Londoners.

Sue Baker, director of the Time to Change mental-health initiative, was appointed OBE for her efforts to challenge stigma and discrimination. And documentary filmmaker Jonathan Benjamin was appointed MBE for improving awareness of suicide.

The awards come only a few weeks after the Change Is Possible campaign reached the £5,000 mark in its fundraising drive in partnership with the Mind mental-health charity.

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**DIRECTORS**
**Philip Evans**

07796 951991

**Hannah Walker**

020 883 59721

**Tim Dixon (Editor)**

07739300485

**Editorial email**
**editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk**

News Editor Geoff Baker 07864 992274

Reporter Jack Dixon 07973 565078

Sport - Tony MacDonald 07711 169427

**Advertising**
**Sales Executive**

 Seniha Slowinski 0208 768 4930 /  
07800 607121

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Hayley Bright 020 8768 4916



Queen inspires "in" look for spring – page 25

# Show must go on for dance star after cancer diagnosis

**A**TOP choreographer and international dance star has told of his determination to keep his latest show on the road – despite a shock cancer diagnosis.

Thomas Michael Voss, who has orchestrated routines for some of the biggest names in showbusiness, said his health problems had strengthened his resolve ahead of his most ambitious project to date.

When *London Weekly News* met Mr Voss in October last year, he was making preparations for a groundbreaking performance at the Resolution dance festival, setting out to defy stereotypes around disability and masculinity.

But since then he has been in and out of hospital after being diagnosed with a plasmablastic lymphoma.

Despite being midway through a lengthy course of chemotherapy and with his health still hanging in the balance, Mr Voss is getting back to work.

In an exclusive interview, he told *London Weekly News* how his cancer diagnoses had made him more determined than ever to finish what he started.

"This life-changing experience has shown me how precious time can be – sometimes we do not have time even though we think we do," he said.

"It made me realise how important it was for this project to be done – it could be the last thing I ever do."

Mr Voss, who lives in Parsons Green, has worked on pop videos for the likes of Mariah Carey, Lily Allen and Craig David, as well as a long list of theatrical productions over the course of an illustrious professional career.

In the autumn, the 43-year-old ended a West End run working with a star-studded cast on the European stage premiere of F Scott Fitzgerald's final novel *The Last Tycoon*.

But his latest venture – *Quaestio* – has been a deeply personal



project from the start. Inspired partly by his own experiences of playground bullying, the carefully choreographed performance aims to break down barriers and challenge stereotypes.

The cast includes a company of 10 dancers whose movements follow the style of one disabled performer, Joshua Robertson, who suffered spinal-cord injuries as a result of a motorbike accident.

Mr Voss said he is aiming to

flip conventional expectations by exploring the artistic beauty of Joshua's limited physical capabilities and allowing him to take the lead.

"It's about the question of 'What happens if you don't fit in?'," he said. "Why is it we feel so uncomfortable around disability? Are we really all-inclusive or are we just ticking boxes?"

During his career, the German-born dancer has used the

medium to take on a series of taboo subjects – from research projects examining the effects of dementia to encouraging the elderly to try out on the dancefloor.

While the cancer has threatened to derail the *Quaestio* performance, which is due to take place at the festival on February 1, Mr Voss is not allowing the complications of treatment to affect his professionalism.

"Some days I can forget that I'm ill and others I wake up and feel unable to get out of bed," he said.

"But I am trying to keep a normal life as much as possible. My main goal is my work – I do not want to have that interfered with. I am determined to make this happen."

The show has helped him to avoid becoming depressed and stagnant, he said – and it is keeping his mind off the cancer.

"Dancing is my life and I am fulfilling my dream every day. It makes me happy and hopefully that might help me get better, and stay better for longer."

Mr Voss is appealing for people to donate towards *Quaestio* and is looking for community or church halls that could be used as rehearsal space. He is on Twitter – @FosseyBear – and more information is available on his website, tmvoss.co.uk.

 Choreographer  
Thomas Michael Voss  
and, inset, with  
fellow dancers

## Contacting your council

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# Security chief fears banks will quit over ISIS attack



Keeping London safe is now proving a huge task, due to the large number of both targets and potential attackers

FROM PAGE 1

June 2016 compared to the same period in the previous year, which has been linked to the November attacks.

"This is estimated to have cost the French economy £644 million in lost revenue.

"It is easy to imagine that the consequences of a similar attack in the UK could be over £1 billion.

"It is also clear that major international companies, such as banks and other financial institutions, who have flexibility in where they establish themselves, take a keen interest in the safety of their staff, including working closely with the police and others to ensure that they are protected.

"If London is not a safe place to work, we will be less attractive to these companies.

"So, while it is our status as the economic hub of the country that contributes to London being a great city, this status increases our attractiveness as a target, and could be significantly undermined if an attack occurred."

Keeping London safe is now proving a huge task for the mayor and security services, due to the large number of both targets and potential attackers.

Lord Harris has revealed that hundreds of extremists are being watched by counter-terrorist police and secret services.

He said: "It is thought that around 850 UK extremists have travelled from the UK to Syria and Iraq to join the so-called Islamic State.

"Of these, around half are estimated to have returned, and may have received combat and terrorist training and may additionally be motivated by their experiences and what they have witnessed whilst away.

"These individuals represent a real threat and present particular challenges to the

intelligence agencies and the police in keeping track of them.

"As the most visited tourist destination in the world, visitors – both domestic and international – come to enjoy our history and culture at a huge range of locations scattered across the city.

"Because of the nature of these sites, and the large numbers of potential victims available, these can again be a draw for terrorists. In fact, of the 73 highest-risk crowded places across the UK, 50 of those are in London.

"It has become clear in recent years, though, that while a desire persists among terrorist groups to attack iconic locations, other sites where large numbers of people gather can also be targeted.

"Attacks and plots around the world have demonstrated that crowded places, such as shopping centres, sports stadia, entertainment venues and places of worship are attractive targets for terrorists. London, with its population of 8.6 million, has countless such places."

Because of the "highly likely" terrorist attack, Londoners are being urged by a team of senior military and civilian medics to learn emergency first-aid skills.

Experts say people need to know how to help each other because it could take some time before it is deemed safe for paramedics to arrive on the scene.

An app, called CitizenAID, has been developed to provide step-by-step advice.

Brigadier Tim Hodgetts and Professor Sir Keith Porter, co-developers of CitizenAID, say it is a good idea for people to have a plan and

the knowledge and skills to help each other.

Their app, pocket book and website suggest how best to deal with injuries in the immediate aftermath of a mass shooting or bombing incident.

The system includes instructions on how to treat severe bleeding – one of the major causes of death in these scenarios.

It guides people through packing, putting pressure on and elevating a wound, and how to use a tourniquet safely.

The programme also explains how to prioritise those who need treatment first and what to tell the emergency services once they arrive.

Meanwhile, counter-terrorism officers have renewed their appeal for Londoners to help lessen the threat by being their eyes and ears in the communities.

"If you suspect terrorist activity then report it in confidence to the Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321," said a spokesman.

## Labour action team hits out over 'disgusting' BT phone boxes

THE West End Labour Action Team has followed up residents' concerns with Westminster Council on the state of the "disgusting" BT phone boxes in the area.

Phone boxes have become a focus for antisocial behaviour including drug taking and urination and their poor condition has created an atmosphere of neglect.

"Visitors to London and many residents view the old-style telephone boxes as iconic and are sickened when

they open the door to find the disgusting condition many are in in our prime tourist area," said a Labour group spokesman.

"We are pleased that two phone boxes have had their doors removed in Soho to reduce antisocial behaviour – but this is just the tip of the iceberg.

"This neglect creates a safe haven for antisocial behaviour and Westminster Council and BT need to do more.

"West End Labour

Action Team were at the forefront of calling for greater police action, designing out antisocial behaviour, deploring the fact no one monitors Westminster's CCTV months after we highlighted it. We continue to ask for greater co-operation between neighbouring boroughs.

"We are pleased to see greater co-operation already starting with the first Camden and Westminster police surgery but are concerned to hear reports of the problem of

antisocial behaviour being swept up the road to Fitzrovia.

"We have now called on the council to ensure better lighting and patrols around Newman Passage in Fitzrovia and to monitor residents' feedback to the new lighting at Ingestre Court.

"We are saddened to learn from Westminster Council that there is no Neighbourhood Watch set up for Soho, Fitzrovia and Mayfair at the same time as the mayor of London is investing time and

money into Neighbourhood Watch.

"We will consult with residents and businesses on the creation of local Neighbourhood Watches within West End Ward.

"We call on residents, Westminster Council and BT to monitor neglected phone boxes to the council and BT as soon as they see them so that the wellbeing of the West End and the quality of life of its residents is no longer taken for granted in 2017."

The memorial is made up of 82 shards which represent each of the council officers who fought and died during the First World War



## New tribute to council heroes

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE City of Westminster has unveiled a memorial to commemorate council employees who fought and died during the First World War.

The striking design placed next to City Hall is made up of 82 shards which represent each of the council officers who fought and died during the conflict. The memorial has been created during the centenary commemoration of the war in response to the council's original Roll of Honour having been lost.

A council spokesman said: "The names of those who served are inscribed on a circle surrounding the sculpture, and include officers from sweepers to financial clerks, a sign of how the horrific conflict didn't distinguish between people's class and background. Eleven councillors also served during the war."

The unveiling ceremony mirrored the service held nearly a century ago for the unveiling of the original Roll of Honour with the Dean of Westminster, councillors and council officers all present just as they were in 1921. School pupils played *The Last Post* and read out the epitaphs they wrote to Private Ernest Boots, a road sweeper who fought and died at the Somme in 1916.

The Lord Mayor of Westminster, Cllr Steve Summers, said: "In replacing the original Roll of Honour, this memorial recognises the heroism of ordinary people going

about their daily lives who responded to the call to fight for our values and beliefs. They went on to do extraordinary feats in 'the war to end all wars' and made the ultimate sacrifice. Their commitment to doing their duty has ensured we are able to enjoy the freedoms we do today. We shall not forget them."

Cllr Robert Davis MBE DL, deputy leader and cabinet member for the built environment, said: "We have been marking the centenary anniversary of the war and this year we have also remembered the Battle of the Somme, so it is a poignant time to stop and reflect upon the sacrifices of our past as we look to the future.

"This memorial purposely placed next to Westminster City Hall will be a constant reminder for our staff and visitors to our offices, as well as passers-by, of all the people who served our borough and then went on to serve our country. They stand up for all that Westminster represents and will no doubt inspire future leaders and role models."

Dignitaries were joined at the unveiling by children from Burdett Coutts and St Gabriel's who have been learning about the Battle of the Somme as part of the Community Covenant work with local schools.

Cllr Rachael Robathan, Armed Forces champion, said: "This new monument is a part of Westminster's commitment to remembering our past and supporting our serving personnel and their families well into the future.

"Through our Community Covenant work we host a range of activities from regular workshops with school children to providing advice on housing in the borough.



# Mayor plans £50m fund to help city's homeless

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDON mayor Sadiq Khan has set out plans for a £50 million fund to help homeless people, including former rough sleepers and victims of domestic abuse, by delivering properties specifically earmarked for people needing to move on from hostels and refuges.

The move-on accommodation will help Westminster's homeless, including young people and women, who are ready to move into a home of their own after spending time being supported in hostels and refuges.

The funding is available to housing providers as part of the mayor's £3.15 billion Affordable Homes Programme, which was agreed with the government in November's Autumn Statement.

The mayor invests a further £9 million annually in services for rough sleepers in London, and recently launched his No Nights Sleeping Rough taskforce – bringing together government, boroughs and key agencies to focus on how to prevent rough sleeping and help entrenched rough sleepers.

"Rough sleeping is extremely dangerous for everyone but especially for women, who are particularly vulnerable to physical attacks and verbal abuse," said the mayor's spokesman.

"Female rough sleepers often respond to these dangers by re-



maining 'invisible', choosing places to sleep which are hidden from view and 'disguising' their homelessness. As a result, many of these women, including those escaping domestic abuse, are significantly less likely than men to access the help and support they need.

"To help address this the mayor has allocated funding for a specialist service, the Female Hidden Homeless Project, run by the Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust. The funding will contribute to the provision of dedicated mental-health specialist support with an aim of providing a route off the streets for women who have been rough sleeping for a long time across London."

Mr Khan made the funding announcement on a visit to a specialist service in Marylebone that provides accommodation, training and skills support for homeless women.

The Marylebone Project offers 112 long- and short-term beds to homeless women, as well as emergency beds for women fleeing from

domestic abuse, and a rough sleepers' drop-in providing hot food and showers. The project also offers skills and training including CV writing, and IT lessons to support users into independent living.

Mr Khan said: "Rising levels of homelessness and rough sleeping in London are beyond shameful in one of the richest cities in the world and it's a sad fact that for years some of London's most vulnerable people have been let down and ignored."

"Homelessness is a complicated problem and it will take time to turn things around but I'm determined we do everything we can to support people from becoming homeless and help them if they do."

"This is why I've set out plans to invest £50 million in accommodation for people moving from hostels to long-term independent living, alongside the £9 million we spend every year on rough sleeping services. I've brought together boroughs, government and the wider housing sector – and it's critical we work together to tackle the scourge of homelessness."

"Rough sleeping can be very dangerous, and homeless women are particularly vulnerable to abuse, which is why the specialist services provided by places like the Marylebone Project and the Female Hidden Homeless Project that I am supporting are much needed."

The Marylebone Project is set up through a partnership between Church Army and the Portman House Trust.

Meanwhile, Westminster City Council is to target ex-Service personnel who are rough sleeping on the streets and help them find emergency accommodation.

Westminster is the first London borough to partner with Veterans Aid to tackle the problem of ex-Service personnel with no beds to go to.

Outreach workers will now refer any ex-Service personnel directly to Veterans Aid, which will get them into emergency accommodation and make sure that they never have to spend a night on the streets.

Cllr Nickie Aiken, Westminster City Council cabinet member for public protection, said: "It is especially difficult to see those who have served our country ending up on the streets. That is why I am so pleased to announce that we will be the first London borough to work in direct partnership with Veterans Aid. They have a superb record of helping ex-servicemen and women and I hope that this will continue to make a real difference in Westminster."

In an appeal to residents, she said: "If you encounter a rough sleeper you are concerned about you can call Streetlink on 0300 500 0914."

Of the 2,857 rough sleepers seen by Westminster's Rough Sleeping Team, 60 self-reported having served in the Armed Forces.

Over the last three years, a little more than two per cent of all rough sleepers in Westminster claimed to be ex-Services. This compares to four per cent nationally, according to DCLG figures for autumn 2015.

Outreach workers will refer those who say they have served in the Forces to Veterans Aid which can provide additional funding and help those with a service record.

Dr Hugh Milroy, chief executive of Veterans Aid, said, "I wholeheartedly embrace this partnership which will work on a number of levels. This charity's operational HQ and drop-in centre has been in the heart of the borough for over 60 years and we have been a former Lord Mayor of Westminster's chosen charity."

"We share with the Westminster team a commitment to preventing and addressing street homelessness and the consequences of homelessness – not by giving short-term hand-outs but by creating enduring solutions."

"We have an excellent record in dealing with homelessness among veterans to the extent that is now a rare thing to find a genuine veteran on the streets. Our emphasis for some years has been on 'no first night out' through prevention. By working in close partnership with Westminster we hope to take our prevention work on to a new level through direct referrals from Westminster. We have a system of swift intervention that works – and recidivism among our clients is uncommon."

"We are deliberately offering our unique and effective service to help Westminster with its rough sleeping issue. We aren't asking for money here, we just want to play our part."

"We are an operational charity, and the work we do is frontline. People who come to our Victoria Drop-in Centre are desperate. We can't tell hungry, hopeless veterans to come back in a few days."

Writing for you every week, London's most outspoken entrepreneur

## Charlie pipes up!



## Education system doesn't prepare our kids for business

IT'S very easy to think that the future of our economy solely depends on politicians, analysts and City fat cats. But, in truth, it's down to each and every one of us to make a contribution that can shape the country's future.

And that includes every schoolchild sitting behind their desk in classrooms up and down the country. Unfortunately, our education system continues to let kids down by not properly preparing them for life in modern employment.

Business owners seem to be repeatedly banging their head against a brick wall trying to close the gap between education and employment. While we appear to win the odd skirmish, such as the government's commitment to creating three million apprenticeships, it is a war we are a long way from winning.

However, it appears we have a new ally, an enemy within if you will, in the form of Sir Anthony Seldon from the University of Buckingham who has delivered a very critical assessment of the way our education system teaches young people.

He says that rather than preparing kids for the exciting and unpredictable 21st century, schools are, instead, preparing them for the last century, which had mass-production jobs where workers had little need to think creatively.

If that's not hitting the nail on the head, I don't know what is.

It's not often I agree with academics, let alone one who is a university vice-chancellor – but Sir Anthony has a real point, especially when he says: "In the coming years, Britain will need a million small enterprises to compete against the best minds in new businesses starting across the world."

His view that children need to be exposed to entrepreneurship, engineer-

ing and computer science is spot on and one that needs to transform into a groundswell of opinion across both academia and business that encourages a seismic change in the way we teach future generations.

Of course, changing the curriculum is one thing but it's the culture of education that has to change and this is where I really stand shoulder to shoulder with Sir Anthony.

He predicts that within 10 years computers will replace many of the skills that young people are currently being taught. This will leave them with very few options when they leave school.

Therefore, to ensure that the skills taught have an end-game, in terms of preparing kids for employment, Sir Anthony suggests that league tables for schools shouldn't be measured on exam results but, instead, on how many students go on to get jobs. This would, as he quite rightly says, force schools into teaching entrepreneurship and more relevant employment skills. This includes moving the focus away from simply getting students through a job interview and preparing them for the real world of entrepreneurship.

I would hope that Sir Anthony's views can also be applied a little closer to home in the higher-education arena too.

The gap between university and employment is also still too large and considerable reform needs to be made to a system full of worthless degrees and overlong courses.

That said, I wholeheartedly support Sir Anthony Seldon's views of reforming schools and the way our kids are taught.

Those with the power to shape education don't listen to business enough. Perhaps they will pay more attention to one of their own – our economy depends on it.

Views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of this newspaper



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## SLOANE STREET

EXHIBITION INFORMATION

Come along to one of our public exhibitions and find out more about our proposals to improve Sloane Street. Detailed technical information will be available and members of the project team will be on hand to discuss the proposed changes and answer questions.

### When and where

The exhibition will be held at **129 Sloane Street, SW1X 9AT** on the following dates:

- **Thursday 26 January from 2pm to 8pm**
- **Friday 27 January from 10am to 2pm**
- **Saturday 28 January 10am to 2pm**
- **Saturday 4 February from 10am to 2pm**

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THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
KENSINGTON  
AND CHELSEA



# Neglected railway arches to be turned into shops

A NETWORK of neglected railway arches next to Wood Lane station will be reopened as shops and attractions as part of a plan to “transform” the area.

Around two thirds of the 31 arches could be up and running as retail outlets and community spaces as early as 2018.

Transport for London is to make the largely unused units available to rent for up to three years.

The revamp coincides with several other major developments in the north of the borough, including the extension to Westfield shopping centre and the building of almost 2,500 new homes, office blocks and restaurants.

Transport chiefs are yet to secure planning permission for the arches but Hammersmith and Fulham council has already backed the proposals.

Graeme Craig, TfL’s commercial development director, said: “Opening the arches at Wood Lane will truly transform the area, supporting ongoing regeneration with new locations for small and independent businesses and improving pedestrian connectivity.



The railway arches at Wood Lane Tube station

“These are the first of a number of arches that we are looking to develop to help us raise vital revenue to reinvest in the transport network.”

The arches will be relaunched as a mix of commercial, leisure and retail outlets while some have been earmarked as pedestrian walkways.

TfL said it aims to open 19 of the arches early next year to coincide with the launch of the new

John Lewis store at Westfield. Of these, 13 will be for retail and business use with three as walkways and three for storage and cycle parking.

A further 12 arches closer to the A3220 West Cross Route will be completed in the early 2020s, TfL said.

Top developers and retail giants operating around the site welcomed the announcement of the plan and hailed a “great opportunity” to further enhance the area.

Sean Ellis, chairman of housing developer St James Group, Alistair Shaw, managing director for the Television Centre revamp, and Duncan Bower, Westfield’s development director, all expressed their support for the proposals.

Hammersmith and Fulham council said the extra pedestrian and cycle options would boost its ambition to make the borough the greenest in the country.

Cllr Andrew Jones, the local authority’s cabinet member for economic development and regeneration, also said the scheme would provide a hub for small and developing businesses to emerge.

He said: “It is important to ensure that there are opportunities for independent retailers, businesses and start-ups, as well as the major stores and big names in Westfield.

“Renovating and renting out the railway arches gives smaller companies a chance to benefit from the huge increase in footfall generated in Shepherd’s Bush in recent years.”

## Bankers and finance workers pay record taxes during 2016

CITY bankers and finance workers have paid more in tax that ever before – contributing £71.4 billion to the economy in 2016.

New figures published by City of London Corporation shows that the equivalent of almost a quarter of the financial services’ turnover was given to tax.

The total tax contribution for the financial services was a 7.4 per cent increase on the previous year’s figures and the highest in the nine years that the report has been produced.

The contribution, the last set of financial-services tax data to be published before Brexit negotiations commence, is 11.5 per cent of total UK government tax receipts.

It also shows that for every £1 of corporation tax paid – one of the largest direct taxes – there is another £3.83 paid in other direct taxes.

The report, which was produced by PwC, shows banks and insurance firms were the highest overall tax-paying sub-sectors, due to reforms in corporation tax and the bank levy.

The analysis shows financial firms paid £8.4 billion in corporation tax, up from £7.6 billion on the year before, while the bank levy saw foreign and UK-based banks contribute £3.4 billion in the last financial year – an increase of more than 25 per cent.

Data from the report shows that the equivalent of almost a quarter of financial services’ turnover in the last financial year went straight to the public coffers, with the average financial worker paying more than £32,000 in tax.

Mark Boleat, policy chairman at the City of London Corporation, said: “As the last set of data on financial services’ tax contribution before the Brexit negotiations begin, it is hugely important.

“In light of the UK’s decision to leave the EU, these new findings not only demonstrate the significant contribution made to government revenues but are also key in helping us to understand the potential impact of Brexit on different sub-sectors within financial services.

“As one of the UK’s biggest service exporters, it’s understandable the sector also contributes a considerable amount of tax. Despite this, the sector arguably stands most to lose as negotiations loom. It makes clear the argument that government should be engaging with firms as it approaches talks with the remaining EU 27, and the pulling of the political trigger.”

Andrew Kail, head of financial services at PwC, said: “The City of London Corporation report shows the continued importance of the financial-services sector to the UK exchequer and the wider economy.

“Specifically, the report highlights an increasing reliance on tax receipts from banking and insurance firms. This is balanced against a backdrop of downward pressure affecting return on equity for the banks in particular, resulting from regulatory changes and the low-interest-rate environment.

## Community’s chance to put tech ideas to the test

TECH bosses have unveiled plans for a new invention hub in White City in a bid to “open doors” for the next generation of entrepreneur designers.

Imperial College London is set to launch the complex – the first of its kind in the UK – this year.

It will provide a platform for people of all ages and backgrounds to put their creative ideas to the test with advanced technology.

The development of the new Invention Rooms is part of the university’s efforts to share the fruits of the borough’s tech boom with members of the local community.

It will be among the first buildings to open on Imperial’s impressive White City Campus, which spans more than 20 acres across the northern part of the borough.

Professor Maggie Dallman, associate provost at Imperial, said: “The Invention Rooms is about throwing open our doors to our



The Invention Rooms will provide a space for members of the community to try out their own tech ideas

neighbours and channelling their energy and ambition into creative projects. There is so much we can learn from this community, and their perspectives and experiences will help shape the world-leading research taking place at our new campus.”

The so-called innovation space will open inside a renovated of-

fice building in Wood Lane in mid-2017.

Detailed plans include workshops, design studios and an “interaction zone” for members of the public to offer their own insights on the university’s pioneering research.

Youngsters will also be given the chance to draw up working

prototypes of their tech designs, developing anything from mini-robots to smartphone apps.

Michael Taylor, headteacher at the Phoenix Academy in White City, said the project would provide “eye-opening experiences” for students in a historically underprivileged part of London.

He said: “We’re looking forward to the new learning opportunities outside the classroom and we are very grateful to Imperial College for giving our students the chance to broaden their horizons and to achieve more with their future.”

The project forms part of Imperial’s wider ambition to work closely with business partners to convert research ideas into breakthrough products.

It follows the launch at the campus in October of Imperial’s new I-HUB development complex, which provides office and lab space for start-up businesses within touching distance of the university’s academics.

## Council tenants to be offered accommodation two hours’ bus ride away

WESTMINSTER residents seeking new council homes are to be offered properties a two-hour bus ride away – in Hounslow.

To keep costs down, Westminster City Council is planning to build 24 homes miles away from the borough.

Labour councillors have slammed the proposals to use funds generated from selling off properties in Westminster to build the new homes.

“These proposed homes are not where they are needed locally but in

the Zone 5 borough of Hounslow and this new scheme to transfer residents to outer London sets a deeply troubling precedent,” said a spokesman for the Labour group.

“A rush-hour journey between Hounslow and Victoria by bus takes two hours, according to Transport for London, and there is little clarity in this plan about how these residents would continue to access Westminster City Council services and support.

“A separate plan to build new family-sized council homes on council-

owned land is likely to require affordable-housing funds from private developments in order to be delivered, as core funds are being allocated to the Hounslow project.

“Labour believes that housing funds should be used to deliver new social and genuinely affordable homes in Westminster for local people, particularly using public land.

Labour group leader Cllr Adam Hug and shadow cabinet member for housing Cllr Tim Roca have requested that these plans are called in for fur-

ther assessment by the authority’s housing scrutiny committee.

Cllr Hug said: “These worrying plans see Westminster try to pass the buck for delivering new social housing to Hounslow.

“The council should invest that money in creating new council homes in Westminster rather than allowing thousands of luxury flats to be built in our city while pushing out our council tenants to Zone 5.”

The threshold for enabling the council’s call-in process is a request

by three members of the scrutiny committee. With two Labour committee members for this further investigation to take place, a Conservative scrutiny member must also make the request – but so far none have come forward.

A council spokesman said: “Approval of the recommendations will enable the city council to acquire 24 new homes, contributing to the strategic aim of increasing the supply of affordable housing available to residents of Westminster.”



# Points of view

Have  
your say

Email Jack Dixon  
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

## OPINION

**W**E are all aware that London is now an international target for terror. At a time when our news headlines are dominated by horror stories from Europe's other major cities, we must all accept that London sits right in the firing line.

Yet we are told by defiant politicians and police chiefs – on what seems like a daily basis – that we must not live in fear, we must not back away from the very principles these aggressors set out to attack.

With these constant reminders of the everyday peril we all face, how can we be expected to carry on as though nothing has changed?

In this climate of fear, we look to those who can provide us with safety and security – the enforcers of the law.

So in the face of massive reductions to police budgets we welcome the news that every single ward in London – all 629 of them – will be guaranteed at least two dedicated neighbourhood bobbies, plus a police community support officer, by the end of this year.

Sadiq Khan used his New Year message to identify keeping Londoners safe as his top priority for 2017 and he is right when he says our local officers should know and be known by the community they serve.

There are so many ways in which our working lives are changing and the Metropolitan Police must, of course, continue to strive for new and innovative ideas to keep us safe.

But the old-fashioned 'bobby on the beat' is, for many Londoners, still the greatest reassurance of all. They have an essential public engagement role to play in our evolving struggle with terror and we must fight to keep them on our streets.

## Urgent need to act on pollution

*An open letter to London Mayor Sadiq Khan*  
2016 has been a year full of air pollution lowlights. The UK has the second highest number of premature deaths in Europe owing to bad air quality.

London has suffered multiple high air pollution episodes.

And the national government has been defeated in the high court for failure to deal with air quality issues. There has never been a more urgent time to take action.

We welcome your clear desire to deliver a step-change in tackling air pollution in London by doubling the funding available and issuing air pollution alerts. And your proposals to make the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) bigger, sooner with related measures is a good first step.

At a minimum, we hope that the most robust version of these policies is implemented.

At the same time, we also know that to tackle the problems of oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2) in London and make our air safe, diesel vehicles will have to be completely phased out.

Almost 40 per cent of London's NOx comes from diesel vehicles on our streets and over 90 per cent of NO2 exhaust emissions.

They are responsible for a range of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases



Greenpeace activists on Nelson's Column in April last year, where they placed a mask on Nelson's face. At the subsequent trial of two people involved, the judge described them as 'principled' with a 'strong sense of social justice' before fining them around £12,500. Now environmentalists are calling on Mayor Sadiq Khan to ban diesel vehicles in the capital

resulting in loss of workdays and increased health costs. There is an entire generation that is being exposed to potentially irreversible health impacts from air pollution.

The announcement from the mayors of Paris, Madrid, Mexico City and Athens to ban diesel vehicles by 2025, shows much-needed international leadership. Of course, governments should do more – but there is no reason why London should not be joining this initiative.

We, the undersigned, call on you to join the leading C40 cities in committing to a ban on diesel vehicles no later than 2025 to help clean up London's air.

**Greenpeace, Clean Air London, London Sustainability Exchange, Sustrans, Campaign for Better Transport, MedAct, Living Streets, Friends of the Earth, Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management, London Cycling Campaign, Cycling UK**

## Conservation to get green light

THE Open Spaces Society, Britain's oldest national conservation body, is calling on local authorities and developers throughout England and Wales to make 2017 the year of the Village Green, by voluntarily registering their land as greens.

The society urges developers to include registered village greens within their sites so that local people have a

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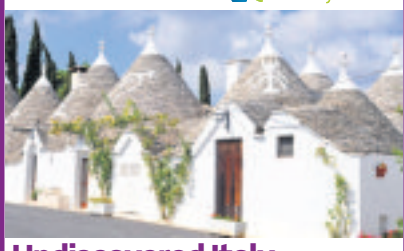
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- ✓ Explore the beautiful Gargano peninsula on a panoramic tour
- ✓ Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager
- ✓ Seven nights' four-star half-board touring hotel accommodation, return flights and transfers

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# your letters and emails

guaranteed green space for recreation which is preserved forever. It also urges local authorities to register their own land so that even if it is sold, it is protected.

The registration process is simple; the only requirements are to provide proof of ownership, obtain the consent of any leaseholder or chargeholder, complete a form and send it to the commons registration authority (county or unitary council). Once the land is registered as a town or village green, it is protected by 19th century laws from development or encroachment, and local people have rights of informal recreation there.

So if a planning authority considers that a developer should offer a mitigating benefit to the neighbourhood, it can insist that the developer registers part of its site as a village green. That provides a real boon to local people.

Local authorities can dedicate their land as a green to ensure that it remains open and available for public enjoyment, regardless of who owns it in future. This is especially important in these times of austerity, when authorities are looking to flog off their land and the public is likely to lose out.

Parish and community councils can also dedicate their land as green as, of course, can private landowners. This is a great way to secure green space for everyone to enjoy.

We say that 2017 should be the year of the green, when local authorities and developers



London Mayor Sadiq Khan wishes Londoners a wonderful 2017

dedicate new greens for public enjoyment and give the public secure rights of recreation.

The society has written to the chief executives of the Local Government Association, the Welsh Local Government Association, the National Association of Local Councils and One Voice Wales, asking them to remind their members of the opportunity voluntarily to register their land as greens, and to persuade planning authorities to require developers to do so.

**Kate Ashbrook**  
General secretary  
Open Spaces Society

## So proud to be London's mayor

I WANT to take this opportunity to wish all Londoners a very happy New Year. This is a chance to reflect on the year just gone and an opportunity to look forward with optimism at 2017. There are already so

many memories that I'll cherish forever and I'm so proud to have been elected your mayor.

So far with your help and support we've launched the most ambitious plan to tackle air pollution anywhere in the world.

Keeping Londoners safe is my main priority and I've been putting more neighbourhood police officers on our streets.

The Night Tube is up and running on the Central, Victoria, Northern, Piccadilly and Jubilee lines, making it easier to get about our city at night. Our new Hopper bus fare is making transport more affordable for millions of commuters.

I've frozen TfL fares for four years and I'm pushing the Government to freeze fares on their lines too.

And our new Homes for Londoners team is getting to work on ensuring that we can build the thousands of genuinely affordable homes London needs. I know with

your support we'll be able to deliver even more this year.

I hope you've enjoyed the New Year celebrations and I wish you all a wonderful 2017.

**Sadiq Khan**  
Mayor of London

## Grateful thanks from hall team

THANK you to all our volunteers, donors and friends, especially at Assael Architecture, the Hollywood Arms, Fulham and Chelsea Women's Institute and the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.

Special thanks go to the Daisy Trust, the Rank Foundation, the Percy Charitable Trust and Yorkshire Building Society whose support enabled us to buy new furniture and kitchen appliances for Rosaline Hall.

If you have not seen them yet or been to our premises before, please do come and say hello or join us at one of

the social clubs.

This year's special thanks go to the Big Lottery Fund – thanks to their support we will be able to organise the Parsons Green Fair on Saturday July 1st 2017 and hope to make it a yearly event for the whole community.

**Krzysztof Mikata-Pralat**  
Director, Fulham Good Neighbours

## Welcome voice for the vulnerable

IT is three months since the launch of our *Change is Possible* mental health campaign with the *London Weekly News* and its sister title the *South London Press*.

In that time we have raised more than £5,000 in vital donations – all of which will be invested directly into the running of our psychotherapy and peer support services. We have also increased awareness of services that we currently offer and of other projects that are currently in the pipeline, such as our upcoming psychosis therapy service. In addition, we have gained the support of prominent political figures – Neil Coyle, Chuka Umunna, Heidi Alexander and even the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan – fantastic outcomes of which we are immensely proud.

Most importantly of all, however, the greatest success of the campaign so far has been the broad and inclusive conversation about mental health that it has helped to initiate.

From local influencers to campaigners, practitioners and some of our own service users, we have been thrilled

by the number of people who have been inspired to come forward and share with us accounts of their own personal struggles and recovery, as well as their unique interactions with the mental health system.

This was our fundamental aim when we originally launched the campaign: to provide a platform for lively, insightful discussions on mental health where all perspectives, from the authoritative to the seldom heard, are given equal weight.

In a climate where enduring stigmas still prevent so many from opening up about the distress they suffer, we believe it is critically important that everybody whose life has been touched by a mental health condition is provided with such opportunities to speak up about their experiences.

I would therefore like to offer my sincere thanks to everyone who has engaged with *Change is Possible* thus far – either as a donor, a supporter, a contributor, or simply as somebody who has been empowered to discuss the issues it has touched upon with friends or relatives.

My hope is that we can keep this momentum going over the months to come and ensure that the campaign leaves a positive, lasting legacy once it draws to a close – not just for Lambeth and Southwark Mind, but for the vulnerable members of our community to whom it has given a voice.

**Ajay Khandelwal,**  
Chief Executive, Lambeth and Southwark Mind



## Uni girl a student's life in the capital

**For many parents, having their child leave home to go to university can be a worrying time. Will they be safe? Are they eating properly or drinking too much? Are they getting any work done?**

Now, with a new occasional column, we bring parents the inside story on life at university from Issy MacLennan, a first year student from Wiltshire who is studying journalism at the University of the Arts in Holborn, reporting on what it's like being a Uni Girl in the capital

THE first term at uni taught me multiple things. For one, the only way to do all of your work in one go is by going to the library and staying there until the Tube closes – so you have nothing to do but drink Red Bull and work. Another thing I've learnt is that no matter how hard you try, Super Noodles will never fill you – they're 49p for a reason.

I've been met with several things since starting my degree; apparently for some people

journalism is too "academic" for me to be going to UAL, but then to others it's met with "is that an actual degree? It's not a subject is it?"

Both people who said this to me went to Imperial College London, they clearly forgot UAL beat them by 150 points on *University Challenge*, but that's alright.

Can I afford to eat? Not really, but I will spend £12 on Glenn's vodka and GV Smooth, from Tesco, not a kiosk, as although I'm burning money, I'm not burning that much.

Is this an issue? No, since I sleep through all meals. Some people put on weight at uni, but they're the ones who actually have enough student loan to do so.

My number one tip of advice is make friends with people who work in decent places. For example, my flat mate, who gets 50 per cent off at Bobbi Brown. So yeah, Mum, you did get a Christmas present that said, "I

appreciate the fact that you probably won't be able to retire at a good time in your life because you have to pay for my accommodation since my loan doesn't actually cover it".

This, however, does not mean you won't be in your overdraft – I like to think of it as a game as to when I'll actually be out of it.

It's not because I'm reckless with money it's just that the cost of travel in London will always set you back at least £30 a week and part of your social life is very much based around alcohol (big up Lambrini being sold for £1.50 in Tesco).

Going out is brilliant, until the inevitable happens and either you or your friend gets spiked.

The fear is very real and to be frank it shouldn't be – if you are dressed up and looking attractive you should not be panicking about whether you covered your drink whilst talking to that bloke or not. The greatest night out you'll

have is often when you're allowed to wear trainers in a club – heels are the devil and they often charge boys £20-plus entry. Is it worth it? Only if it's free drinks.

You miss your Mum and Dad, pets and a decent bed. Being in London, I personally also miss clean air.

One of the closest friends from my course I made through having horrific 'fresher's flu' and her having to give me her water in our first lecture because I thought my lungs were collapsing – I hadn't begun socially smoking at this point, may I add.

Another problem was through getting conjunctivitis from wearing monthly contact lenses on the Tube for two weeks solid and my friend having to lend me a tissue to wipe my eyes.

I guess the main thing parents especially worry about when their children go off to uni is whether or not they're safe.

The thing is there will always

be something that happens – someone will get followed late at night, someone will get mugged at some point, and although this is very rare, someone may get murdered outside your reception to halls.

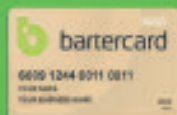
That actually did happen. It's traumatic and horrible but the thing everyone has to remember is that you will always have someone to protect you if you ask for it; in uni you're always surrounded by friends and you create a new sense of family.

Overall, I'd say the first term of university gave me many things to be aware of but more the sense that I have more things that make myself me.

I'm different to how I was before I left home because I'm surrounded now by people who are more like myself, even if they're from completely different continents.

*I miss home but I still feel like now I'm right where I need to be.*





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# Mental-health of Duchess of

BY GEOFF BAKER  
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE crusade to conquer the capital's mental-health crisis has been given a major boost with awards in the New Year's Honours for key allies of the Duchess of Cambridge in her spearheading of the campaigns to eliminate stigma around the illness.

Three Londoners who have helped drive the royal appeal, which is also backed by the Duke of Cambridge and Prince Harry and is running in tandem with a campaign led by the Mind charity with the *London Weekly News*, have been "gonged" in the latest honours.

The awards mark official Buckingham Palace recognition for the importance of the mental-health campaigns and will now add clout to the growing wave of calls from all quarters for more to be done to help the one in every four Londoners who will suffer this year.

Sue Baker, director of Time to Change, the mental-health charity supported by the duchess, has been appointed OBE for her crucial work to challenge the stigma and discrimination faced by people experiencing mental-health problems.

Ms Baker set up Time to Change in 2007 with charities Mind and Rethink Mental Illness. Since then it has grown into a national movement with thousands of community champions and online supporters who have reached millions of people across England.

Mind chief executive Paul Farmer said: "Sue is a phenomenal campaigner who has worked tirelessly to raise awareness of mental health for more than 20 years.

"It is in large part thanks to Sue that the nation is now more comfortable talking about mental health whether it's in workplaces, schools or in living rooms.

"Under Sue's expert leadership, Time to Change is making a tangible difference to people's lives with people's reported experience of discrimination reducing and more people having the confidence to come forward and seek help when they need it.

"Sue thoroughly deserves this honour and everyone at Mind offers their heartfelt thanks for all her hard work."

Jonathan "Jonny" Benjamin, another of the duchess' allies in the fight for better understanding of the widespread illness, has been appointed MBE for improving awareness of suicide and mental health.

Mr Benjamin, who has spoken publicly and presented documentaries on the

BBC and Channel 4 about his battle with schizoaffective disorder, was famously once talked down from jumping off a London bridge.

The 29-year-old has since spoken in schools, prisons and workplaces and will run in this year's London Marathon to raise tens of thousands of pounds for Heads Together, a coalition of charities launched by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry. His initiative, ThinkWell, will raise awareness of mental health in secondary schools across the country.

Mr Benjamin said: "I hope this accolade may give some hope to others who might be struggling that there is life after a diagnosis of mental illness and that such a diagnosis should never put limitations upon anyone.

"I will use this honour to push further for parity between physical and mental health in all areas of society, from healthcare to workplaces, and particularly within schools.

"It doesn't make sense why mental-health education isn't compulsory on the school curriculum and yet physical education is."

Also appointed MBE is Professor Miranda Wolpert, director of the Anna Freud Centre for Children and Families, the mental wellbeing charity of which the Duchess of Cambridge is patron.

The honour for the pioneering clinical psychologist is in recognition of more than 25 years of her dedicated service to improving mental-health support for children, young people and families.

Professor Wolpert said: "I feel this honour is truly shared with all the people I work with and for. I am privileged to work with such talented and committed people, dedicated to finding the best ways to support child mental health and wellbeing.

"These are challenging times but I feel we are making progress in understanding how we best help young people manage mental-health difficulties and achieve the goals in life that are most important to them."

Anya Hindmarch, the fashion-accessories designer who creates one of the Duchess of Cambridge's favourite brands of bag, has been appointed CBE.

Mark Hix, the super-chef, restaurateur and *London Weekly News* columnist, has been appointed MBE for services to the hospitality industry.

Mr Hix, who spent 17 years as chef director at Caprice Holdings before opening Hix Oyster & Chop House in 2008, then Hix Mayfair, Hix Soho and Hix City as well as

Tramshed and Hixter Bankside, said: "I'm honoured and delighted to be recognised by the British Empire – what a way to start the New Year."

Londoner Barrie Marshall, the widely respected music promoter behind concert careers by artists including Sir Paul McCartney, Sir Elton John, Lionel Richie, Taylor Swift, Pink, Tina Turner and the late George Michael, was appointed MBE.

Mr Marshall, who said the honour was for "all the gang" at Marshall Arts, the Primrose Hill agency which he has led for more than 30 years, was applauded by Sir Paul, who tweeted "A tip of the hat, huge congratulations, well done Barrie!" alongside a photo of him hugging his long-time promoter.

Clare Chamberlain, director of children's services for Kensington and Chelsea, and Andrew Christie, formerly director of children's services for the Triborough of Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster, have both been appointed CBE for their services to children.

Ms Chamberlain has led work on Focus on Practice, a programme to enhance the skills of children's social workers and develop more effective help for families. A recent Ofsted inspection of children's services rated the royal borough's service outstanding. It was the first in the country to receive this rating under the new Ofsted framework.

Ms Chamberlain said of her honour: "I feel very fortunate but I feel that the award also honours the hard work and commitment of the teams of social workers who are dedicated to helping children and their families. I've been a social worker for 35 years and it's great to see our profession getting this recognition."

Cllr Elizabeth Campbell, the royal borough's cabinet member for family services, said: "I am delighted that Ms Chamberlain's skill, expertise and hard work have been recognised and I want to congratulate her on this very well-deserved honour."

Prior to being appointed interim director of children's services for Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster City Council and London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham last May, Ms Chamberlain worked as the royal borough's director of family services.

Imran Amed, the Notting Hill-based chief executive and founder of the Business of Fashion blog which has 1.6 million followers in 200 countries, was appointed MBE for his services to fashion.



# campaigners and key allies of Cambridge recognised in New Year's Honours

Also appointed MBE was Leslie "Teacher" Palmer, founder of the modern-day Notting Hill Carnival, for services to the London community. Mr Palmer is credited with revolutionising the carnival when he was its director in the 1970s.

According to Claire Holder, carnival organiser from 1989 to 2002: "Leslie Palmer brought the Caribbean community together because at the time when he became chairman of the carnival it was a purely Trinidadian thing."

"Leslie said 'There are so many aspects to Caribbean culture and it should all be represented'. That act alone didn't just bring people into carnival; it actually impacted on our whole perception as carnival people."

"His impact went beyond carnival. It had an impact upon our existence as black people in this country."

A 27-year-old woman from Kensington has become the youngest scientist in history to be appointed MBE.

Anne-Marie Imafidon was honoured for her contribution to STEM – science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

As one of the top 10 women in STEM, she becomes the youngest scientist to be appointed MBE since the honours system started 1890.

Ms Imafidon is also a pioneering alumna of the multi-record-breaking Excellence in Education programme.

She said: "I'm ecstatic beyond words. This is divine, simply God-sent. I'm really surprised, honoured and humbled."

"Inclusivity in the STEM sector and across society is important for all of us – it's an honour and a privilege to do the work we do."

In other awards, four influential London women have been appointed dame.

They are Professor Elizabeth Anionwu, professor of nursing at the University of West London, for services to nursing; Inga Beale, chief executive of Lloyds of London, for services to the economy; Professor Amanda Fisher, director of medical research in clinical science at Imperial College, for services to medical research; and Helen Fraser, former chief executive of The Girls' Day School Trust, the UK's leading network of independent girls' schools, for services to education.

In the arts, appointed OBE are Nicholas Logsdail, founder of the Lisson Gallery in Marylebone; James Mackenzie, violinist with the London Symphony Orchestra; Helen McCrory, the actress who played Cherie Blair in the film *The Queen* and starred in three *Harry Potter* films; and Tim Pigott-Smith, the acclaimed Shakespearean, stage, television and movie actor soon to be seen playing the lead in the BBC adaptation of *King Charles III*.

And Ray Davies CBE, frontman of The Kinks who immortalised London with hits including *Waterloo Sunset*, *Lola* and *You Really Got Me*, has been knighted for services to music and charity.

Sir Ray said: "Initially I felt a mixture of surprise, humility, joy and a bit embarrassed."

"But after thinking about it I accept this for my family and fans and everyone else who has inspired me to write."



Sue Baker OBE



Jonathan Benjamin MBE



Prof Miranda Wolpert MBE



Mark Hix MBE



Barrie Marshall MBE



Clare Chamberlain CBE



Imran Amed MBE



Leslie Palmer MBE



Anne-Marie Imafidon MBE



Helen McCrory OBE

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# Community proves we're better together

In the depths of a mental health crisis, the mere thought of arriving at work can trigger waves of anxiety and panic. Even being around others in a social environment may prove an impossible feat. As part of the London Weekly News and South London Press Change Is Possible campaign, reporter Jack Dixon visits the Mosaic Clubhouse in Brixton – a remarkable charity project helping hundreds of people to feel part of a community again

**W**E all have bad days. Days when it feels as though the whole world is turning against us. Days when we seem to fall short in everything we do. Most people bounce back quickly from these temporary blips. They lean on friends and family for support. They rest, recover and start again. They believe tomorrow will be a brighter day.

But what happens when one bad day follows another? When the cycle never seems to break? What happens when loved ones are not there to help us through difficult times and we begin to lose hope?

Before joining the Mosaic Clubhouse in Brixton, many of its members felt cut off from their community. When they were diagnosed with mental health conditions, barriers to their employment, education and social lives appeared.

"Often when people are given a diagnosis, hope is taken away from them," says the charity's chief executive Maresa Ness. "People self-stigmatised a great deal and that tends to lead to isolation and loneliness. So we never discuss diagnosis at all. All we ever do is talk to people about their hopes and dreams, to help them get their confidence back. They just come here as human beings."

Mosaic is the only accredited clubhouse in the country, with between 300 and 400 active members. It functions as a self-sustaining community, where everyone – regardless of their mental health history – pulls together to get the job done.

There is no distinction between 'staff' and 'patients' and every single decision is made by consensus.

In fact, the clubhouse is an entirely non-clinical environment. Rather than coming for tests and treatments, members muck in and help out with day-to-day tasks.

The centre itself is deliberately understaffed so that each individual is an essential piece in the jigsaw – whether working on reception, helping out in the kitchen or maintaining the gardens.

"We can't run the centre without



Members of the Mosaic Clubhouse in Brixton – a charity project that is busy helping hundreds of people to feel part of a community again. Pictured centre are support worker Nancy Holden, left, and programme manager Bev Randall

our members, they are a vital part of what we do," explains Mosaic support worker Nancy Holden.

"We all clean the toilets and sweep the floors. Members can even drive our vans if they have a licence."

Many of the members are referred to Mosaic by GPs and other care professionals, while some discover the clubhouse for themselves.

They aren't contracted to work – but the charity's unique 'whole community' model gives them the platform to put their skills into practice.

The centre operates, says Maresa, like one enormous volunteering project.

"People go away with this sense of 'didn't I do good?' It may be the first time they ever feel valued," she adds.

"We really look forward to seeing people but we never contract them to do anything. They have a choice about what they do and it gives them back the power."

At the heart of the project is an emphasis on helping people return to work.

There are dedicated education and employment rooms, with an IT suite for members to brush up on their computer skills. Help is also at hand for drafting CVs and practising interview technique.

By the time members begin their transitional employment placement (TEP) – a nine-month part-time paid job, secured by the charity – they are ready to work once again.

**Z**OOBIA Mehboob, a 42-year-old supermarket night-shift worker, recently started her TEP with the Lambeth Living Well Network in Streatham Hill. When she first visited the clubhouse in January, she had been unemployed for several years and was suffering from depression and anxiety.

"I was really upset when I came here, initially I didn't find it very helpful," she says. "But clubhouse helped me a lot, my support worker helped me get back into my work and get my confidence back."

There are countless stories of personal recovery and transformation

at the clubhouse, which is one of only two centres of its kind in England.

Around the world, however, there are hundreds – mostly in the United States, where the model was born in the 1940s, but in northern Europe as well.

Maresa helped to launch Mosaic, in Effra Road, back in 1994 and took over as chief executive at the charity in 2012. As the first Maudsley mental health patient ever to be allowed to train as a Maudsley nurse – she went on to spend 30 years working in the NHS – her journey of recovery is perhaps the best example of all.

"Every single day I see the difference that we make to people's lives. It means that no longer do people feel despair and isolation," she says.

"Of course you need doctors when you are acutely unwell but you also need something else, just to get you back on your feet. This model is so powerful. It's my mission that there should be a clubhouse in every town."

culture department.

His normal duties include everything from emptying the bins and cleaning tables to laundry and hoovering.

With more than 10 years of clubhouse experience, Byron says he now feels part of the team.

"It's a nice place to come and it gives me something to do – otherwise I'd just be sat at home all day," he explains. "It's fun talking to people and going on socials, there are lots of different things to do."

Byron's TEP with the South London and Maudsley NHS Trust's SHARP mental health team comes to an end in January next year.

He currently works one hour five days a week, but would like to pick up a part-time job in a supermarket or shopping centre.

"I hope to find something else to do as well as clubhouse. I'll probably find a job stacking shelves in the evenings."

## Small room where crisis can end and recovery can begin

THE clubhouse is home to several different departments offering a range of support services – but perhaps none so valuable as the Evening Sanctuary.

Opening five nights a week between the hours of 6pm and 2am, it functions as a place of quiet and calm for anyone caught in the grips of a mental health crisis.

Staffed by a mix of Mosaic support workers and clubhouse members, the Sanctuary offers a comfortable and welcoming out-of-hours environment for people at their lowest ebb.

Visitors can pick up information about relevant services, access art, films and music, chat with trained peer supporters or simply relax in a peaceful environment.

While only a small room next to the clubhouse cafeteria, it provides a hugely important service – both as a point of contact for users and a building block on the road to recovery for members.

Dawn, 48, joined the clubhouse in May and began working in the Sanctuary soon after. She had suffered with severe anxiety and social phobias but quickly found her feet talking to others who had struggled with mental health problems.

After only a few months at Mosaic, she is now part-way through her transitional employment placement and working towards a full-time job in the health service.

"I loved it, it was really good, helping people and talking to them," she said. "I heard so many stories like, 'if it wasn't for Mosaic I would not be here today'. When I hear those words I know that it's all been worth it."

The Sanctuary is available to Lambeth residents over the age of 18 who live with a mental health condition.

## Share your story

Do you have personal experience of living with mental health problems? Has a friend or family member been affected? Your story could help inspire others to donate towards our campaign.

Help us fundraise Could you support our appeal by organising a fundraising event or setting yourself a sponsored challenge? Every penny could be crucial in helping us reach our campaign targets.

## Make a donation

To make a donation to our appeal, you can visit the dedicated website [www.givey.com/changeispossible](http://www.givey.com/changeispossible) Alternatively, you can write to Lambeth and Southwark Mind, 4th floor, 336 Brixton Road, London, SW9 7AA. They will be pleased to help.

■ For more information about getting involved with our campaign, please contact reporter Jack Dixon on 07973 565078 or email him at this email address: [jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk](mailto:jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk)



Follow our Change Is Possible campaign every week in the South London Press and London Weekly News, and read all the articles published since the campaign began by visiting our website [londonnewsonline.co.uk](http://londonnewsonline.co.uk)

## Zoobia, 42

Zoobia was referred to the clubhouse by her GP in January. She had been out of work for around three years and was suffering from post-chronic depression and anxiety.

"It is so difficult to get a job [in London] and I found it really tough filling out long applications," she says. "I was really upset the first time I came to clubhouse."

With the help of a Mosaic support worker, she slowly regained her confidence to return to employment. She now juggles 20 hours a week working night shifts at Sainsbury's with her TEP, an administrative role at the Lambeth Living Well Network in Streatham Hill.

At the end of her placement she



hopes to secure a permanent, full-time office job.

"When I came I was very down and depressed, but clubhouse has helped me a lot to get my confidence back."

## Dawn, 48

Dawn only came to Mosaic in May but has already made huge progress.

Before she was referred to the clubhouse by the Lambeth Living Well Network, her anxiety had become uncontrollable. She was scared to talk to people, refused to travel on the Tube and rarely used the bus.

"Most of the time I spent at home in my tracksuit feeling miserable. My body had shut down," she says.

Helping out at the clubhouse



forced her to get out of the house, to be among other people again.

She initially worked in the business department entering data before moving on to Mosaic's evening sanctuary support service.

Dawn is two months into her TEP at Public Health England, where she provides administrative support. She hopes to work in the health service in the future.

"I really value Mosaic for what they do for people. They do not push anyone. They give them space to grow, to develop. I don't feel like an outsider any more."

## Byron, 38

Byron is one of the clubhouse's most active members, arriving every day to help out in the hospitality and horti-





## Advertisement feature



The Devlins, opposite the Electric Cinema, began accepting Healthy Start vouchers in January

# Make a healthy start to 2017

BY CHARLIE STONG  
charlie.stong@slp.co.uk

This year is all about becoming more healthy.

And to that end stallholders and businesses are getting in on the act by accepting healthy eating vouchers and promoting healthy eating.

On Friday, January 20, 2017 in Portobello Road market, pitch number 78 (outside Tesco), Go Golborne and MyTime Active are teaming up to organise a series of cooking demonstrations with Goldfinger Factory, the Golborne Community Champions and the Portobello Mushroom Man.

Free recipe cards and cooking spoons will be given out. The event is designed to promote the fact that market shoppers can redeem Healthy Start vouchers at six fruit and veg stalls plus a handful of Golborne Road shops.

Whether or not shoppers use Healthy Start vouchers, the market is a great place to get top value fresh food for a healthy diet.



Stallholder Meraj, by Coffee Plant, signed up to accept Healthy Start vouchers in June 2016

## Toddy Trail winners

Two winners have been selected for the Toddy Trail prize draw. Both are related to the family that run Fusion

Clothing (London) Ltd, easily recognised by its enormous scarf display along Portobello Road between Lancaster Road and Tavistock Road.

Despite their family's long connection to the market area, the winners were delighted to discover new places among old favourites along the Toddy Trail.

Nineteen shops and three market stalls took part in this six-week market area promotion organised by the Portobello Café Society and supported by the Volunteer Centre Kensington & Chelsea Market Ambassadors.

The business with the most stickers on completed entry forms was Second Cup, followed by Coffee Plant, with Vinyl Café and Earl of Lonsdale tied for third place.

About a third of participating businesses were bars or pubs, and all together those businesses received a corresponding proportion of stickers. Entries were received from W11, Kensington and South Kensington, as well as more distant places like Tooting and Edgware.

## Holiday fundraising

A number of groups including Sion-Manning School, American Women Lawyers in London, Epic CIC, Kindred Studios and the Volunteer Centre Kensington and Chelsea Market Ambassadors (who helped most of the other groups) raised around £700 over the holiday period (the final figure is still being tallied). Beneficiaries include Mary's Meals, Advance domestic violence charity, Cruse Bereavement Care, Galgo Rescue International, and local social enterprise start-up Nippar.

## Christmas thank you

Pictured left is Markets development officer Mark Atkinson with Taina Mathew's thank you note. Six-year-old Christmas card art contest winner Taina sent a lovely note to the street trading office expressing her thanks for her prize of market goodies as well as the opportunity to switch on the market's Christmas tree lights with the Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea Councillor Elizabeth Rutherford.

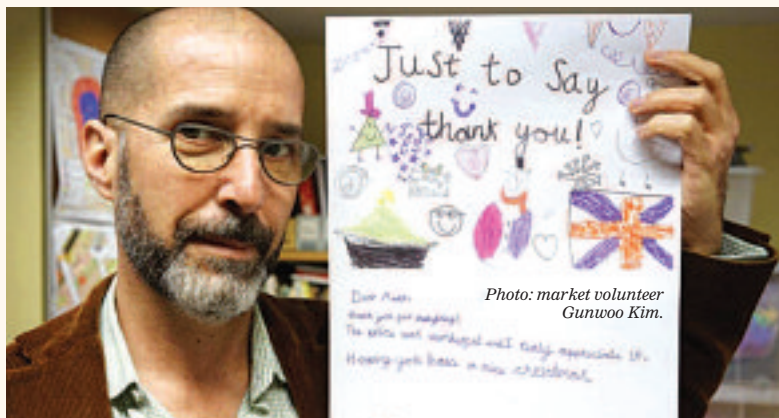


Photo: market volunteer Gunwoo Kim.



# Blue badge scheme for those who need a seat to be rolled out across Transport for London

**BY GEOFF BAKER**  
*geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk*

TRANSPORT for London is to roll out a blue badge priority seating scheme across the capital for those less able to stand on buses and the Tube.

The 'Please Offer Me a Seat' badge and accompanying card was trialled last year to help those who need a seat, but have difficulty getting one.

The six-week trial was in response to passenger feedback and TfL research, which found that those with hidden disabilities and conditions, or those un-

dergoing treatments, can often find it difficult to get a seat when they need one.

More than 1,200 people tested the new badges, which are similar to the popular Baby on Board badges.

"During the trial, 72 per cent of journeys were said to be easier as a result of the badge. On 86 per cent of journeys participants reported feeling more confident when asking for a seat and 98 per cent said they would recommend the badge and card to somebody who requires or would benefit from it,"

said a TfL spokesman.

When it is launched, TfL will become the first European transport provider to officially recognise invisible impairments and conditions in such a way.

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, said: "I'm proud that Londoners embraced this innovative trial and that Londoners wearing the badges found travelling around easier as a result."

"It's great news that this year we will be able to offer them to all those with hidden disabilities and conditions, and I'm re-



port for All, said: "While this will help many customers, there will be those who don't want to use a badge and card. We want to see those people supported too, and for everyone to get a seat who needs one."

Mike Brown, London's Transport Commissioner, said: "The trial made a real difference to people with invisible impairments, conditions and injuries who find it difficult to get a seat when they need one."

"It was part of our commitment to constantly improve the network for all our customers and we will launch the badge and card permanently in the spring, once a thorough review of the findings of the trial is complete."

To find out when TfL's new seating badge and card will be going live, sign up to receive accessible travel updates, by visiting [www.tfl.gov.uk/emailupdates](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/emailupdates) and following @TFLAccess on Twitter.

## Where To Find Your Local Favourite Free Newspaper

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Shepherd's Bush CHRONICLE		pick up points	
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## New fire chief is a woman

BRITAIN'S biggest fire brigade has appointed a woman to a top position for the first time.

Dany Cotton took on her role as the first woman in history to be a London Fire Brigade commissioner from January 1.

During her predecessor Ron Dobson's time as commissioner the frequency of fires reduced by 37 per cent and fire deaths are on a ten-year downward trend. But Mr Dobson left his post with a warning that the fire service must prepare for terrorist attacks.

Dany, 47, said: "I am delighted to be appointed at such an important time in the brigade's history and am looking forward to continuing all of the hard work we have been doing that has had such an impact on reducing fires and improving fire safety across the capital."



London Fire Brigade Commissioner Dany Cotton takes on the new role from retiring commissioner Ron Dobson

The new commissioner started her training when she was 18.

She said: "It never occurred to me that it was unusual to join the fire service."

"My parents were very level headed - there wasn't any stereotyping in our household."

Ms Cotton said female firefighters who worked in World War Two were an inspiration to her.

By 1943 more than 70,000 women had enrolled in the UK's National Fire Service.

She said: "When I joined in the 1980s it was quite a step for people to accept women being firefighters."

"To the female firefighters during the war, I'd say thank you for opening the doors and being the pioneers."

"I think they were amazing, inspiring women who stepped out of very normal day jobs or domestic home lives to go and do that role."

"Thank you for letting me do my job and showing that women can be brilliant fire

fighters."

Ron Dobson who was London's fire commissioner for nearly a decade, left the brigade after 37 years service to the capital.

He said: "I am finishing my career on a high, secure in the knowledge that your new Commissioner Dany Cotton will steer the brigade through all the changes and challenges ahead."

"It has been an honour and privilege but the nature of the job means that sometimes you have to make difficult and unpopular decisions."

"Although there have been dark times, I'm proud of the way we've embraced change over the years."

"We remain well within our target to get the first fire engine to an incident within an average of six minutes and to get the second fire engine to an incident within an average of eight minutes."

One of Mr Dobson's final acts was to publish the draft London Safety Plan, out for consultation, which includes

proposals to expand the brigade's capacity to respond to a terrorist incident.

The London 7/7 bombings brought the emergency services' capability to respond to terrorist attacks into sharp focus.

Mr Dobson said: "You can't be as closely involved in events such as those that occurred on July 7 and not be changed by them."

"I know that I am a different person today to the one I was before July 7."

"The role of a firefighter in 2016 is a world away from when our great organisation was born 150 years ago and our plan reflects the varied job we do everyday to protect Londoners."

"We need to plan for the very worst, even though we hope it never happens, we must prepare our firefighters to be part of the response to a terrorist incident."

Mr Dobson, 57, was awarded the Queen's Fire Service Medal in 2005 and the CBE in 2011.



# Jail for four-man gang who blew up cash machines

A CASH machine robbery gang's spree was ended after one careless member was spotted twice on CCTV wearing a t-shirt emblazoned with the slogan 'Seasoned Offender'.

The reckless four-man gang have been jailed for a combined total of more than 40 years after a month-long spree of blowing up cash machines netted them a whopping £120,000.

They pumped gas into ATMs at petrol stations and shops across London and the Home Counties before igniting them from a distance with an electrical

charge and stealing the money. But after Daniel Dorkin was spotted proudly sporting the same shirt during two raids, the gang was caught.

The gang was forced to leave half of their ten attempts empty handed, after failing to reach the cash compartment of the machines despite causing extensive damage.

Trevor McCarthy, Gary Mills, Ray Abraham and Dorkin were all jailed at Kingston Crown Court last week.

All four unemployed gang members were sentenced after pleading guilty to conspiracy to steal, conspiracy to



Raymond Abraham

commit criminal damage and recklessness endangering life.

Detective Inspector Mark Bedford, of the Flying Squad, said: "This crime network caused a series of large explosions in petrol stations and it was by sheer luck that no unsuspecting members of



Daniel Dorkin

the public were injured as they passed by.

"There has been substantial inconvenience caused to local communities who rely on the services of the ATMs and also extensive damage to small business properties estimated to be in excess of £200,000.



Trevor McCarthy

"The substantial sentences handed down today reflect the danger posed to the public by the action of this reckless gang."

McCarthy, 43, from Ladbroke Grove, west London, was sentenced to ten years and eight months imprisonment,



Gary Mills

from Chalfont St Giles, Bucks, was sentenced to ten years and eight months imprisonment.

Abraham, 36, from Southampton, Hants, was jailed for 11 years and four months, while Dorkin, 36, from Basingstoke, Hampshire, received a sentence of 11 years.

## Fire risks climb as temperature falls

AS temperatures fall firefighting chiefs are warning Londoners to take extra care when heating their homes after new figures show that fires caused by electrical heaters have resulted in seven deaths and 162 injuries in the last five years.

London Fire Brigade says fire typically start when blankets and clothes are left too close to or on top of heaters or heaters are placed too close to armchairs, sofas or beds.

Last year there were 142 fires caused by electrical heaters, 31 injuries and one death.

Dan Daly, Assistant Commissioner for Fire Safety at London Fire Brigade, said: "It's tempting to pull heaters close to you when the temperature drops but blankets and duvets or other material getting too close to heaters is a dangerous fire risk."

"Shockingly more than two thirds of fatal fires involving heaters are caused by clothing or furniture being too close. People need to make sure their portable heaters are standing upright and kept well away from clothes, curtains or furniture."

"Although the stats focus on electric we should not forget that other heaters such as gas and open fires carry an equal fire risk gas fires if not used correctly."

"Most of these fires are easily preventable. We're asking people not to become another statistic by following our portable heater and open fire advice."

The brigade has issued the following safety guidelines:

- Portable heaters and fires
- Secure heaters against a wall to stop them falling over, or fit wall-mounted heaters
- Keep heaters away from clothes, curtain and furniture
- Sit at least one metre away from a heater as it could set light to your clothes or chair, especially if you fall asleep
- Always turn off your heater and allow it to cool before moving it
- Change gas heater cylinders in the open air, or open windows and doors if you have to change them indoors
- Store spare cylinders upright and outside, whenever possible. Never store them in basements, under stairs or in cupboards containing electric meters or equipment
- If you are using gas, paraffin or bio-fuel heaters make sure the area is well ventilated
- When using bio-fuel always follow the manufacturer's guidelines and instructions.
- Fireboxes and containers should always be placed on a stable surface
- Never add fuel to a burning fire or attempt to refill a firebox fuel container that is still hot
- For homes with open fires and log burners:
- Keep chimneys and flues clean and well maintained
- Always have your chimney swept by a specialist - at least once a year for coal and twice a year if you are burning logs
- Make sure you use a fire guard to protect against flying sparks and hot embers
- Before you go to bed, ensure fires are under control and guarded or better still, put out
- Store logs away from burners because radiated heat can cause them to burn.

# Mayor goes back to bobbies on the beat

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynnews.co.uk

EVERY area of London will have at least two neighbourhood cops by the end of the year, Sadiq Khan has vowed.

The Mayor of London is on track to bump up security by providing the local officers in all of London's 629 wards, with more than half of London's neighbourhoods now covered.

"The move towards dedicated ward officers, who know and are known by the community, is Sadiq Khan's first step to re-establishing real neighbourhood policing," said the Mayor's spokesman.

"Having officers based in a specific area means stronger relations between Londoners and their police officers, where local communities are served by dedicated officers they know and trust, and who understand the area and people they police."

Sadiq Khan has confirmed that since introducing the plans in July last year, 295 new dedicated ward officers have been appointed and are now helping to police London neighbourhoods.

He also confirmed that all of London's wards will have a minimum of two dedicated ward PCs and a dedicated Police Community Support Officer by the end of this year, with additional dedicated officers allocated according to local need.

The Mayor repeated his commitment to maintain the strategic target of 32,000 police officers across London, but warned that it would become increasingly difficult given the huge financial pressures facing the Met - particularly if there are further cuts from the government's review of the police funding formula expected later this year.

Sadiq Khan, said: "As Mayor, the safety of all Londoners is my highest priority and this starts with real neighbourhood policing. I am pleased to be able to announce that we have delivered a second dedicated PC in 295 London wards."

"By the end of this year there will be two dedicated ward PCs and a dedicated Police Community Support Officer in every London neighbourhood. Our local officers should both know the community and be known by the community. Their local knowledge helps to prevent and detect crime, and they are the local eyes and ears of our security services."

"They are essential to improving trust and con-



In a return to neighbourhood policing, the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has pledged that every one of London's 629 wards will have at least two dedicated community police officers by the end of the year

fidence in our police and keeping our communities safe. I am determined to maintain the strategic target of 32,000 police officers across London, but I want to be honest with Londoners that this will get increasingly difficult given the huge scale of government cuts to the Metropolitan Police Service."

Assistant Commissioner Martin Hewitt said: "Neighbourhood policing is at the heart of our work and in maintaining strong links with our communities. I am delighted with the progress we have already made to increase the number of Dedicated Ward Officers (DWOs) across London as more DWOs means that those links can be strengthened even further."

The return to real neighbourhood policing is central to the Mayor's new draft Police and Crime

plan. All Londoners are invited to feed into the current public consultation which concludes next month.

"The 295 newly dedicated ward officers are drawn from existing non-dedicated neighbourhood roles, and 'ring-fenced' from being called away to other duties," said the spokesman.

"Until last year most wards had just one dedicated PC and one dedicated PCSO, with two dedicated PCs in around 100 of the highest-harm wards. This announcement brings the total number of dedicated ward officers to 1,024."

The new draft Police and Crime Plan is available for to read online at london.gov.uk/police-plan. The Mayor has invited Londoners to respond via the website or by emailing consultation@mopac.london.gov.uk



**LWN**

News for Westminster, Chelsea, Hammersmith, Shepherd's Bush and Fulham

# WATCH OUT

in Westminster, Chelsea, Shepherd's Bush, Hammersmith and Fulham

In partnership with  
**Checkatrade.com**

This is a monthly column by Peter Faulkner of Who Can You Trust offering advice to the elderly and the vulnerable on how to safeguard themselves against fraudsters and rogue traders and offering advice on safety in the home.

Contact Peter on 07958 475392 or email peter.fau67@gmail.com

# Keep your pets safe

By Peter Faulkner

**HUNDREDS of families in London will have bought a dog as a Christmas present for their children without really considering the implications.**

Dogs are expensive today and for top breeds and gundogs you are likely to be paying well over £1,000 - yet many people will not take out the insurance to guard against illness and against theft.

Many will also ignore having their pet microchipped even though this is now legal.

A word of warning! Since 2013 more than 5,000 dogs - some worth as much as £1800 each - have gone missing or been stolen right across the country and that is a 23% rise in just two years.

But London is a dognapping hotspot with 567 pet dogs and 90 cats stolen in the capital since July 2013.

Dog thefts, which made up the large majority of domestic pet thefts across London, increased 16 per cent from 186 in 2014 to 217 last year.

In total the Met recorded 769 incidents of domestic pet theft in the past three years, including rabbits, hamsters, snakes, ferrets and tortoises.

Cat thefts were down last year, with 26 incidents compared to the 38 recorded in 2014 while since July 2013, 14 tortoises, 24 rabbits, 14 birds, 4 guinea pigs and three snakes have been stolen.

Pet dogs can be very valuable, with pedigree dogs often worth £1,500 or more and tortoises all fetching several hundred, even on the black market.

Conservative London Assembly member Steve O'Connell said: "These figures show what a serious issue this is for pet owners across London.

"Thefts are becoming increasingly common due to the amounts of money available to sellers on the black market.

"For the owner, the heartbreak is immense as they lose a much loved



If you have bought a dog for Christmas get it insured and microchipped

pet that may have been with them and part of the family for many years.

"As an animal lover I will be looking into what work the Met is carrying out to tackle this problem and will seek reassurance for pet owners that this issue is being taken seriously."

The National Animal Welfare Trust, which has a presence in several areas of the country, said:

"Discovering your dog has been stolen and never knowing what happened to him is an owner's worst nightmare.

"The new microchipping legislation will not help reduce the growing number of dog thefts each year - that is an owner's responsibility.

**How to keep your dog safe?**

■ Over 50% of dogs are stolen from gardens. Make sure your garden is secure and don't leave your dog unsupervised.

■ 19% of dogs are taken by breaking into homes. If your dog is left at home, make sure your home security is good. Be aware if anyone has been watching your house and your movements.

■ 16% of stolen dogs are taken from owners out walking their dogs. Vary the times you walk and the routes you take and beware of strangers asking you questions about your dog or trying to play him or her. Also, teach your dog to come back when called. Dogs running off can become vulnerable to thieves.

■ 7% of dog thefts are dogs that have been tied up outside shops or other premises, an easy target for any opportunist thief.

■ Dogs left in locked cars are also an easy target and 5% of all stolen dogs are taken from vehicles.

■ Neutering your dog will reduce the risk of a dog being stolen.

■ Ensure your dog wears a collar and tag at all times, even in the house. Do not put your dog's name on the tag because a friendly pet could easily be enticed away.

■ Choose a dog walker, sitter or boarding kennels carefully. Ideally take recommendations from people you trust and ask for references.

■ 50% of dogs stolen are puppies or young adults. Be extra vigilant if you have a pregnant bitch or a litter of puppies.

So it makes sense that if you're buying a dog for Christmas make sure you get it microchipped and insured so that it is protected from pet thieves and less likely to be a statistic.

In other words ensure your pet really is for life and not a festive whim.

## Don't pay up

**FRAUDSTERS** are sending out emails claiming to be from a legitimate company called UK Parking Control Ltd (UKPC) saying you have a parking ticket.

The convincing looking emails entitled Parking Charge Reminder say you have parked on one of UKPC's client's private land.

The bottom of the email asks victims to click on payment options and photos for more information and also quotes a £90 charge.

If you receive one of these emails, delete it, do not download the attachment and report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

## Moans and groans

**BARCLAYS** Bank receives more than twice as many complaints about fraud than any other bank.

Figures from the Financial Ombudsman Service received 2,708 fraud-related complaints from Barclays customers between July 2014 and September this year.

Customers only complain to the Ombudsman when they have been fobbed off by their bank or failed to reach a resolution.

Many of the gripes about Barclays were from customers annoyed that the bank didn't do enough to stop fraudsters raiding their accounts.

A third were upheld in favour of the customer. The next most-complained about bank for fraud was Santander with 1,208 complaints. Around 35 per cent of these were upheld.

NatWest had the third highest number of fraud complaints with 1,142. In fourth was HSBC, with 992 registered complaints.

## Agency hacked

**LONDON** recruitment agency Michael Page has been frantically contacting thousands of job seekers warning them that their personal information has been leaked online.

Michael Page says email addresses, passwords, phone numbers and job applications were all accessed.

In an email sent to customers, the Moorgate-based company said that an unauthorised third party illegally gained online access to a server used by IT provider, Capgemini.

Since they identified the leak, they have worked non-stop to fix the issue with Capgemini.

"We know that the data was not taken with any malicious intent and have asked that the third-party destroys or returns every copy of the data," said a spokesman for Michael Page.

**How do you choose a reliable tradesperson?**

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Our trades and services have been vetted to high standards. In fact up to 13 checks are carried out including ID, references, insurance, qualifications and professional memberships. Then we monitor their work on an on-going basis by collecting feedback directly from you, their customers.

**When you're thinking about choosing your next tradesperson, take the guess work out of your decision.**

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**EIGHT PAGES  
OF READER  
TRAVEL  
OFFERS PLUS  
TIPS FOR  
YOUR 2017  
HOLIDAY!**



Top left, Hannah Walker with her children Matilda (second left) and Samuel (right) Walker Evans and Kayla Mohammadi Walker. Above, Matilda at the Brera gallery. Left, Samuel at the Duomo and, bottom left, Samuel, Kayla and John Walker at one of the city's many markets. Inset, Samuel and Myrrh Walker

## Explore the best of the UK by coach

Coach travel is inclusive, friendly and fun.

Going by coach is the best way to enjoy and discover some of the great sights and attractions to be found across the UK without the hassle of organising travel bookings, hotels and visits to attractions yourself. But before you book a coach trip, here's our checklist of do's and don'ts for coach travel in 2017.

### DO...

**Book with a reputable company.** For your coach tour to be a success, you want decent seating, newer buses, a reliable driver, and a track record you can trust. Check whether your bus has air conditioning, toilets and on-board entertainment. In the UK, the Guild Of British Tour Operators ensures that all affiliated tour companies uphold the highest standards, from the booking process to the cleanliness on the buses. **Pick your crowd.** While it is important to book with a reliable coach tour company, you also need to make sure that you and your group are committed to keeping a schedule and enjoying the itinerary. There will be enough time to appreciate the sights and places on your route, but this also means you need to be back at the bus when it's time to go.

**Plan your schedule.** If the next leg of your tour takes you through the snow-capped Pyrenees, make sure you have a jumper handy. If you are going to be travelling throughout the evening or afternoon, bring a snack on board to see you through. It will be healthier and cheaper than food at the petrol station. **Choose a holiday that suits you.** Coach tour companies offer specialised tours that cater to just about every interest group under the sun. There are specialised tours for pensioners, young college students, same-sex couples, art lovers, singles, newly weds and ecotourists. Some tours will take you to one specific location, others will cover a series of countries over a 12 day period or offer a hop-on-hop-off option. With a bit of homework, you can find yourself a trip that is tailored to you and your group's tastes.

**Prepare yourself.** If you suffer from car/motion sickness or migraines, make sure you bring pills or remedies to help you get through the long hauls.

**Watch out for hidden costs.** Check with your coach tour company before you leave if there are additional costs to your holiday.

### DON'T...

**Assume that coach tours will not be as fun/comfortable as other modes of transport.** With the right company, attitude and itinerary, touring via coach is one of the most comfortable and stress-free ways to travel. Travel Tip: do your homework before booking. Check out a few review sites, ask friends who have been on similar tours and make sure you know what you are signing up for.

## My Milan tips

I booked my hotel and flight through DialAFlight. Whilst the telephone service was very good, they found a four star hotel for me out in the suburbs.

After doing some research and checking out transport links, I switched hotels at the very last minute, which left me with one hotel option at a price I could afford – the switch ended up costing me an extra £130. I probably should have shopped around myself, giving me a broader choice of hotels – cheap but still central. Use the Metro system, it's convenient and economical and cabs may take you on a pricey detour. Check kid's prices – my £8 bus ticket from the airport for my 11-year-old should have cost me £4. Most hotels include breakfast, our breakfast buffet was vast – if we hadn't been meeting family, I would have packed some away for lunch, too.

Watch out for the chaps fastening wrist bands in the Duomo central square. They hijacked my kids before I could turn around, wrapped bands tightly around wrists and asked for money. I firmly refused.

The flight and three star hotel through DialAFlight cost me £652, for two nights, with flights for three. But I couldn't put a price on the memories myself and the children, came back with.

# Memories I'll treasure forever

**W**e stood on the roof of the Duomo di Milano in Northern Italy on a heavily misty morning so freezing we felt we had turned into the heavy stone statues standing beside us, writes Hannah Walker.

This was a moment I will treasure forever, especially as my son said: "This is the most beautiful cathedral I have visited and I can't believe we're allowed on the roof". And, believe me, I've dragged him around a lot of old cathedrals and churches.

I booked Milan as a very last minute weekend treat for me and the kids.

My dad, who is notoriously hard to track down and lives in a wonderfully remote part of Maine, USA, was there for the weekend, so I booked the most economical deal I could find. It was a quick call to an agent, "just get the cheapest deal for two nights, me and two children".

I'm not interested in a fancy hotel, which is actually code for, I've got a very limited budget and we'll be out the whole time, not sitting in a hotel, and to be honest I'm still a student traveller at heart.

We flew from Gatwick on a Friday night and arrived at Milan Malpensa airport for 11.30pm set for a weekend of adventure. The airport is great for its bus and train links. We got the bus for €3 each into the Milano Centrale station and were there by 12.30am.

And we did the typically stupid tourist thing – we got in a cab for a 15-

minute journey, only for the cabbie to deliver us to our hotel, a mere 100 metres from Milano Centrale. But when it's below freezing with two tired kids in tow and past midnight, that's what you do.

Our three star hotel was perfectly located, not just because it was so close to the central station, but it was within walking distance of the Corso Buenos Aires shopping street. And since Milan is considered the style capital of Italy, this alone was a dream for my 11-year-old daughter.

However, we were also very close to the Duomo and most of the main museums, so for me, this was ideal.

Equipped with my long list of places to visit, the children and I set out early the following morning for a walk into the centre. Passing all the main shops and upon reaching the cathedral I bought passes to the cathedral, the roof, museum and church.

It was two hours of wonder as the cathedral is remarkably rich in decoration and dripping in detail. We also visited when a full orchestra was in concert. The Duomo is definitely a must-see, and it's also worth visiting the cathedral church alongside it – smaller but truly beautiful.

Milan is a very pretty but hugely busy city. When you get tired of window shopping, look up at the detailed architecture and enjoy.

The metro system is simple, just follow the coloured routes and we were on and off the metro throughout our weekend, easily buying tickets

at station terminals. We met my dad and wife Kayla at the cathedral and as two of my sisters, Myrrh and Rachel, had also flown from various parts of the world we exchanged news over a wonderful Italian meal and several after that.

There's plenty of choice of restaurants and the food is beyond good.

The children focused on pizza and desserts, I stuck to pasta.

Together we managed to also visit the Brera Picture Gallery, which is one of the most important galleries in the world. It is packed full of famous 14th, 15th and 16th century paintings – Mantegna, Tintoretto and much more – we browsed for hours. An essential visit. We also walked for miles and by Sunday had hopped on and off so many trains, we felt like we knew the city well.

We said our farewells to our family and the three of us headed to the bus station by 6pm on Sunday and flew back into Gatwick. In bed by 1am with school and work on Monday.

Milan is definitely worth a visit and you can see all the main attractions over a weekend and eat very well too. The food can be pricey but museum entries are reasonable.

I did it on a tight budget and was not persuaded by the many souvenir stores. However, my daughter spent all her lunch money in H&M, whilst my son came away with a bagful of foreign currency change handed to him by my well-travelled father with the words – "travel and enjoy".

**See inside for great holiday offers from our travel partner Newmarket Holidays!**



# London Weekly News Group

## Reader Offers

**FLYING FROM LONDON GATWICK,  
HEATHROW & STANSTED**

**Newmarket  
Holidays**



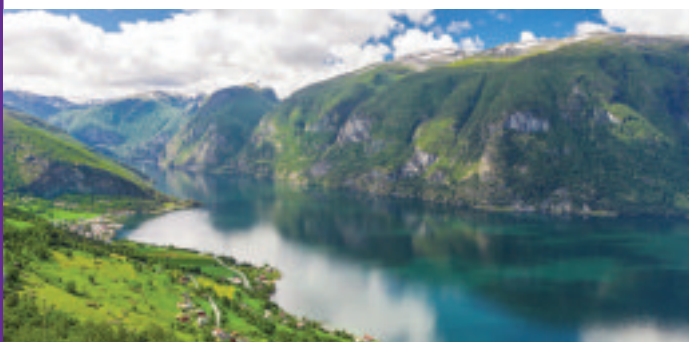
## Hidden Portugal

**8 days from £539** Flying direct from London Gatwick & Stansted, April to October 2017

Discover a delightful corner of Portugal far removed from the Algarve's manicured golf-courses and holiday resorts, and brimming with fascination and interest.

### Tour highlights

- ✓ Discover Portugal's vibrant second city Oporto, in its splendid setting above the River Douro
- ✓ Pay a visit to a port wine lodge
- ✓ Journey along the scenic Costa Verde
- ✓ Explore the Vinho Verde vineyards and discover historic Ponte de Lima's ancient Roman bridge
- ✓ Explore the historic fishing towns of Póvoa de Varzim and Vila do Conde
- ✓ Guided visits to Viana do Castelo and Ponte de Lima in the northern Minho region
- ✓ Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager
- ✓ Seven nights' three-star half-board hotel accommodation, return flights and transfers



## The Beautiful Fjords of Western Norway

**8 days from £799** Flying direct from London Gatwick & Heathrow, May to October 2017

This journey to one of the world's most delightful destinations is less a holiday and more a treasured souvenir for life.

### Tour highlights

- ✓ Stay in a wonderful fjord-side hotel
- ✓ Be treated as honoured guests by the welcoming villagers
- ✓ Journey by express boat from your hotel through breathtaking scenery to 'Fjordland Capital' Bergen
- ✓ A fascinating 'Fjord-Life' tour
- ✓ Explore further the pristine interior on unforgettable optional excursions
- ✓ Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager
- ✓ Seven nights' four-star half-board hotel accommodation, return flights and transfers

## Scottish Highland Railways

**5 days from £479** Flying direct from London Gatwick, Heathrow & Stansted, April to October 2017

Experience some of the world's most spectacular scenery as you enjoy journeys on three of Scotland's – and indeed the world's – most scenic railways.

### Tour highlights

- ✓ Rail travel from Inverness to Kyle of Lochalsh - one of the 'Great Railway Journeys of the World'
- ✓ Journey on the steam-hauled Strathspey Railway
- ✓ Cross the famous Glenfinnan Viaduct on the 42-mile journey from Fort William to Mallaig
- ✓ Visit the famous Highland resort of Aviemore
- ✓ Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager
- ✓ Four nights' dinner, bed and Scottish breakfast accommodation, return flights and transfers



## Moscow & St Petersburg

**7 days from £899** Flying direct from London Heathrow, March to May, July & September to November 2017

Two of the Northern Hemisphere's most exciting cities.

### Tour highlights

- ✓ Enjoy a fascinating guided tour of the Russian capital
- ✓ Take in the Kremlin, St Basil's and the Bolshoi Theatre
- ✓ Spend three nights in St Petersburg
- ✓ Enjoy a tour of the exquisite 'Venice of the North'
- ✓ Visit the world-renowned Hermitage Museum
- ✓ Daytime train journey from Moscow to St Petersburg
- ✓ Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager
- ✓ Six nights' carefully chosen bed and breakfast accommodation, return flights and transfers



## Steam Railways of Austria

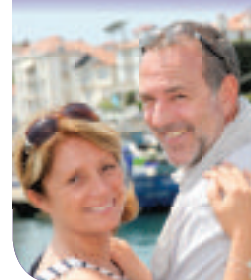
**8 days from £679** Flying direct from London Gatwick, Heathrow & Stansted, May to July, September & October 2017

All the pleasures of a wonderful lakes and mountains stay with some unforgettable train rides to savour and enjoy.

### Tour highlights

- ✓ Spend a week in the idyllic Austrian Tyrol
- ✓ Journey on the nostalgic Zillertal Steam Railway
- ✓ Explore glorious Innsbruck and the Ambras Castle
- ✓ See some of the world's oldest steam engines on the Achensee Cog Railway
- ✓ Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager
- ✓ Seven nights' three-star half-board hotel accommodation, return flights and transfers

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# London Weekly News Group

## Reader Offers

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Holidays



### Discover more on an escorted tour!

- ✓ Experience all those 'must-see, must-do' places
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- ✓ Comprehensive, thoughtfully planned itineraries
- ✓ Interesting included guided tours & excursions
- ✓ Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager
- ✓ Comfortable accommodation in hand-picked, good quality hotels



## Croatia's Stunning Coast & Isles

**8 days from £799** Flying direct from London Gatwick, 13 May, 3, 24 June, 16, 23, 30 September & 7 October 2017

Rest, relaxation and a little exploration on a holiday by the shores of the Adriatic, with some fascinating included excursions and island calls.

### Tour highlights

- ✓ Enjoy seven nights in a well-appointed beachside hotel
- ✓ Visit Korcula, the island birthplace of Marco Polo, legend has it
- ✓ Discover ancient Split, Croatia's glorious second city
- ✓ Walled island town Trogir is a delight
- ✓ An island cruise takes in idyllic Brac and Hvar
- ✓ Enjoy a traditional Fish Picnic
- ✓ Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager
- ✓ Seven nights' four-star dinner, bed & breakfast accommodation, return flights and transfers



## Capri, Pompeii & the Amalfi Coast

**8 days from £795** Flying direct from London Gatwick & Stansted, April to July, September & October 2017

Discover the charm and warm hospitality of the Neapolitan Riviera.

### Tour highlights

- ✓ Spend a week in the blissful surroundings of the Neapolitan Riviera
- ✓ Visit the extraordinary ruins of Roman Pompeii
- ✓ Discover and explore colourful, historic Naples
- ✓ Journey along the famous Amalfi Drive, one of Europe's most scenic coastal roads
- ✓ Enjoy a full day on the Isle of Capri
- ✓ Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager
- ✓ Seven nights' three-star half-board hotel accommodation, return flights and transfers

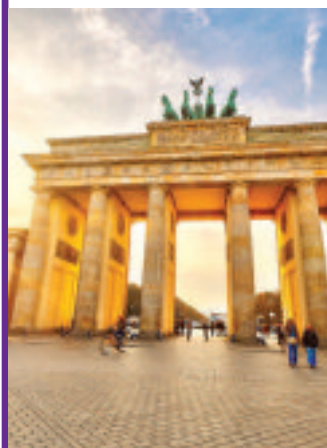
## The Lakes of Killarney & the Ring of Kerry

**6 days from £529** Flying direct from London Gatwick, Heathrow & Stansted, April to October 2017

A wonderful opportunity to enjoy some of Ireland's loveliest scenery, including the iconic lakes and mountains paradise of the Ring of Kerry.

### Tour highlights

- ✓ A drive round the rugged Beara Peninsula
- ✓ Admission to Muckross House and a tour of the Killarney National Park
- ✓ A tour of County Cork's south coast, including a visit to colourful Kinsale
- ✓ A tour of the famous Ring of Kerry with its stunning seascapes and soaring mountains
- ✓ Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager
- ✓ Five nights' three-star half-board hotel accommodation, return flights and transfers



## Berlin, Colditz & Dresden

**5 days from £499** Flying direct from London Gatwick, Heathrow & Stansted, April to June & August to October 2017

Discover three of erstwhile East Germany's most glorious cities as we take a peek behind the former Iron Curtain.

### Tour highlights

- ✓ Explore Berlin on an included guided tour
- ✓ Time to explore the sparkling university city of Leipzig
- ✓ Step into a world of heroism on a guided tour of Colditz
- ✓ A guided tour of stunning, Baroque Dresden
- ✓ Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager
- ✓ Four nights' three-star bed and breakfast accommodation at hotels in Berlin (2 nights) and Dresden (2 nights), return flights and transfers



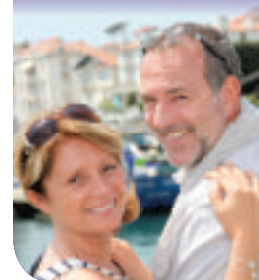
## The Spirit of Kraków

**5 days from £449** Flying direct from London Gatwick, Heathrow & Stansted, April to October 2017

The treasures and preserved medieval glories of Poland's former Royal capital unveiled, and a visit to Auschwitz.

### Tour highlights

- ✓ Enjoy a guided tour of Poland's stunning former Royal Capital
- ✓ Discover the great medieval square of Rynek Główny
- ✓ Wander the market stalls and galleries of the vast Sukiennice Cloth Hall
- ✓ Visit stunning Mariacki church, Wawel Castle, the Kazimierz district and Kraków's vibrant café culture
- ✓ Visit poignant, sobering Auschwitz-Birkenau
- ✓ Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager
- ✓ Four nights' four-star bed and breakfast accommodation, return flights and transfers



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**F**rom the hidden wonders of Myanmar and wild islands of Indonesia, to the tropics of the Amazon and bright lights of New York, more and more people are looking for incredible destinations to uncover on their next break. But did you know one of the best ways to visit these magical places is on a cruise?

Cruising doesn't have to all be about cocktails, learning to dance and topping up your tan on a sun-lounger round the pool, as lovely as that is of course. Instead there is a great emphasis on enriching your on-board experience and discovering new destinations, whether its summer camps for the kids and luxurious cooking lessons or visiting far-flung parts of the world only accessible by ship, and expeditions to exotic and mystical lands.

Cruising also means you have the privilege of seeing more than one main stop on your travels, opening up a vast array of places to enjoy, explore and experience.

The **London CRUISE Show at Olympia** on February 18-19, 2017 will be packed with information and inspiration allowing you to uncover a whole world afloat.

Here is a small sample of what could be your next holiday on the sea.

#### Enjoy a Voyage of Discovery in Myanmar

This new 17-day Hidden Wonders of Myanmar cruise will take you on a voyage of discovery between Mandalay and Yangon calling at Inwa, Salay and the ancient city of Bagan onboard APT's new ship, the RV Samatha. As part of APT's exclusive 'Signature Experiences', passengers can cruise alongside the U Bein Bridge near Amarapura, view the famous Shwedagon Pagoda at sunset, sample a local cigar or 'cheroot' at a workshop in Danuphyu and visit Yoke Sone Kyaung, the region's oldest surviving wooden monastery.

Guests can even save up to £350 per person on the new 17-day cruise with APT's Fly Free offer when booked by February 28 2017.

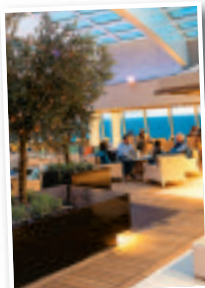
*APT: Hidden Wonders of Myanmar, from £4,345pp based on September 6, 2017 departure*

#### Set Sail to Indonesia

Sail with Star Clippers on a journey that will be reminiscent of adventures embarked upon by Robinson Crusoe, with port calls to many tiny jungle-and-sand islands. One of the many highlights of this itinerary will involve being able to see Komodo Dragons in their natural habitat on the Indonesian islands.

The small size of the vessels provides an opportunity to visit smaller islands that larger ships are unable to reach. As well as visiting remote islands and cultural landmarks, passengers will be able to delve into Hindi culture and explore bustling streets and exotic markets.

*Star Clippers: Bali Stay & Indonesia Sail, from £1,999pp, departing June 28, 2017*



#### Get the Kids Creative with Celebrity Cruises

Celebrity Cruises have new onboard programmes for its 2017 European sailings that will delight families.

They will be introducing their exclusive "Summer Camp at Sea" on all European sailings, allowing children to

# Do not lose your chance to cruise

enjoy a holiday that moves beyond entertainment to also deliver enriching and inspiring activities.

Options include the "Creation Station" programme that allows children to express themselves creatively and the opportunity to put their chef skills to the test with a cooking at sea programme, all ensuring children aged three to 17 have a range of one-of-a-kind educational activities at their fingertips. *Celebrity Cruises: Best of Western Mediterranean, from £1,299pp*



#### Journey Along a Legendary River

Enjoy something a bit special for Christmas and new year, and follow the Caribbean and Atlantic to the legendary Amazon during an exciting 22-day cruise.

From San Juan, sail to Barbados and the Îles du Salut of French Guiana. Then cruise along the Amazon, calling on historic riverside ports along the way.

Return to the Caribbean, where you can explore the lush tropical splendour and colonial histories of Tobago, St. Lucia, Antigua and St. Thomas.

This cruise departs on December 16, 2017 and includes 11 guided tours. *Viking Cruises: From the Caribbean to the Amazon, from £5,640pp*



#### Oceania Cruises Takes Manhattan

Oceania Cruises will be homeporting in New York City, with more than 20 planned voyages beginning in 2017. Sailing from Manhattan's convenient west-side cruise terminal at 48th street, the intimate and luxurious Insignia will offer an intriguing array of round-trip and open-jaw voyages to New England, Canada, Bermuda, and even Greenland and Iceland.

You will find an acclaimed culinary experience that rivals the best restaurants ashore as well as an irresistible blend of culturally rich and fascinating destinations. *Oceania Cruises: Voyages begin from 2017*

#### Cruise Europe Onboard New Luxury River Yachts

Crystal Bach and Crystal Mahler are set to embark in June and August 2017 and will set a new standard of luxury river cruising.

The two new river yachts will have 55 suites for 110 guests and will offer guests luxurious amenities that surpass the comforts of home, including Crystal's acclaimed butler service for every suite.

Additional enticing features include

Crystal's highly-acclaimed cuisine in multiple eateries and in order to give guests the best possible experience, the new river yachts will offer all-suite accommodations that are located entirely above the waterline, providing spectacular and unobstructed views through the panoramic balcony-windows.

*Crystal Cruises: Crystal Bach, 14-night sailings starting June 18, 2017. Crystal Mahler 16-night cruises starting August 29, 2017*

#### Thomson Cruises Expands Long-Haul for Winter 2017

Thomson Cruises has unveiled its winter 2017 programme which sees a long-haul focus with more ships based in the Caribbean and exciting new ports of call added.

From November 2017, Thomson Celebration will be moving to its new homeport of La Romana in the Dominican Republic, meaning for the first time, Thomson Cruises will have three of its ships based in the Caribbean.

All-inclusive ships TUI Discovery and new addition TUI Discovery 2 will join Thomson Celebration and will sail out of Bridgetown, Barbados and Montego Bay, Jamaica respectively.

*Thomson Cruises: The winter 2017 programme is on sale now*

#### Emerald Waterways Launches New EmeraldACTIVE Excursions

Emerald Waterways is proud to introduce EmeraldACTIVE, a range of activities aimed at more adventurous guests who yearn for the outdoors and to experience the great sites they visit in a different way to a standard tour.

Examples of the activities on offer include hikes in Germany's dramatic Black Forest during the eight-day Jewels of the Rhine and a

guided bike tour of the Austrian city of Melk – home to the famed Melk Abbey – on the eight-day Danube Delights.

In line with Emerald Waterways' fully inclusive pricing structure, all EmeraldACTIVE excursions are offered to guests at no additional charge.

*Emerald Waterways: EmeraldACTIVE available for 2017 cruises*



#### Explore the World of French Gastronomy

Explore the delights of French gastronomy like never before, with the new and exclusive Scenic Culinaria experience.

Leave an unforgettable trip not just with memories, but with authentic French recipes and the knowledge of how to make them.

The on-board cooking schools immerse guests in the culinary wonders of the Rhône and Bordeaux regions.

Taught by experts, the classes use the finest in local ingredients.

From famed French pastries to the chocolate of Bordeaux; the seafood of the Arcachon coast or the carnivorous delights of Provence, each class is tailored to the region that the ship is cruising through. *Scenic: Available for Bordeaux, Rhone and Saone River Cruises in 2017*



#### Princess Cruises Introduce the Dazzling Majestic Princess to Their Fleet

Princess Cruises are excited to be introducing a new ship to the fleet in spring 2017. The dazzling Majestic Princess is sister ship to Royal Princess and Regal Princess and will offer many of the special features that made them both so popular and distinctive. These include the over-the-sea SeaWalk – a glass-floor walkway extending eight metres beyond the edge of the ship and the dramatic atrium, the social hub of the ship with additional entertainment and casual dining options.

Majestic Princess has been built specifically for Chinese guests, but will sail the Mediterranean for six weeks following her maiden voyage, with UK guests having a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience all she has offer.

*Princess Cruises: seven, 14, 21 and 28 day cruises available, departing throughout April and May from Rome, Barcelona or Athens*



#### Discover the Beauty of Kvarner Bay & Istria Aboard the Princess Eleganza

For those who enjoy discovering medieval towns, exploring Roman sites, cruising among some of the world's most beautiful coastal scenery while accompanied by a small group of like-minded travellers,

Noble Caledonia's new journey along the Istrian Coast which has been combined with a three-night stay in the charming Kempinski Hotel in Portoroz will surely appeal.

With just 36 guests on board, the Princess Eleganza is able to dock in towns and cities and explore parts of the Istrian coast that passengers aboard the large cruise ships rarely get to visit.

During the voyage the passengers will moor each night allowing for the opportunity to experience the atmospheric ports in their evening splendour.

*Noble Caledonia: Idyllic Istria, from £2,895pp*



These are only a small sample of the amazing array of cruises that you can expect to find at The London CRUISE Show.

The CRUISE Show is at Olympia London on February 18 and 19, 2017.



# London Weekly News Group

## Reader Offers

**FLYING FROM LONDON GATWICK,  
HEATHROW, LUTON & STANSTED**

**Newmarket  
Holidays**



## Barcelona, Montserrat & the Pyrenees

**6 days from £499** Flying direct from London Gatwick, Heathrow, Luton & Stansted, April to June, September & October 2017

Based in a fine resort hotel on Spain's rugged coast, this wonderful holiday to Spain's fascinating northeast corner includes guided visits to the enthralling, stylish Olympic city of Barcelona, with its irrepressible vitality and its heart-stopping sights, and to the sacred hill-top monastery of Montserrat, Catalonia's spiritual symbol.

### Tour highlights

- ✓ Enjoy a guided tour of wonderful Olympic city Barcelona
- ✓ See Gaudi's monumental *Sagrada Família*
- ✓ Journey to the sacred mountain-top shrine at Montserrat
- ✓ Enjoy a scenic journey through the Catalan Pyrenees
- ✓ Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager
- ✓ Five nights' four-star half-board hotel accommodation, return flights and transfers



## Iceland - Reykjavík & the Northern Lights

**4 or 5 days from £629** Flying direct from London Gatwick & Heathrow, February, March, November, December 2017, February & March 2018

Discover Europe's most surprising capital, explore the 'Land of Fire and Ice' and search for a celestial phenomenon.

### Tour highlights

- ✓ A guided tour of Reykjavík, Europe's most northerly capital
- ✓ Go in search of the Aurora Borealis – the fabled Northern Lights
- ✓ On the five-day break, there's the opportunity to join an excursion to view volcanoes and puffins
- ✓ Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager
- ✓ Three or four nights' bed and breakfast hotel accommodation, return flights and transfers

## The Italian Lakes

**8 days from £789** Flying direct from London Gatwick, Luton & Stansted, May to October 2017

This wonderfully relaxing tour begins with a three-night stay at Lake Garda, Italy's largest and most popular body of water. In addition to the included tour of its sun-kissed shores, there's the opportunity, on an optional excursion, to visit historic Mantova, 'the world's most romantic city'. Continue on to beautiful Lake Maggiore, with its exquisite *Isole Borromeo*. Enjoy a tour of these stunning offshore islands and a day exploring Lake Como and its elegant resorts.

### Tour highlights

- ✓ Enjoy a full-day tour of Lake Garda
- ✓ Enjoy a guided tour of Maggiore and the beautiful Borromeo Islands
- ✓ Spend a day exploring Lake Como
- ✓ Sirmione, situated on Garda's sun-kissed southern shore
- ✓ Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager
- ✓ Seven nights' four-star half-board hotel accommodation, return flights and transfers

## Lisbon, Seville & the Glorious Algarve

**8 days from £519** Flying direct from London Gatwick & Stansted, February to April, November 2017 & February, to April 2018

The warm and welcoming Portuguese holiday haven and two great Iberian cities – discovered and explored.

### Tour highlights

- ✓ Stay in Portugal's sun-kissed holiday haven
- ✓ Discover and explore the historic Portuguese capital
- ✓ Visit the 'City of Flamenco' – breathtaking Seville
- ✓ Rest and relax in your chosen hotel, and join optional excursions that will bring to life the charm of the Algarve
- ✓ Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager
- ✓ Seven nights' three-star, dinner, bed and breakfast hotel accommodation, return flights and transfers



## Lake Annecy, Mont Blanc & Chamonix

**7 days from £599** Flying direct from London Gatwick & Heathrow, 13, 20 May, 17, 24 June, 2, 16, 23 September, 7 & 14 October 2017

Enjoy picture-postcard 'lakes and mountains' charm and scenic Alpine glories in one of Europe's most spectacular regions.

### Tour highlights

- ✓ Enjoy six nights in the spectacular *Haute Savoie*
- ✓ Explore beautiful Lake Annecy on an included tour
- ✓ Travel on the Mont Blanc Tramway – France's highest
- ✓ A visit to the famous Alpine resort of Chamonix
- ✓ Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager
- ✓ Six nights' three-star bed & breakfast hotel accommodation, return flights and transfers



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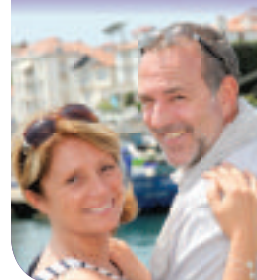
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The sunshine beats down for a staggering 325 days a year in the historic coastal town of Estepona

## Estepona: Costa del Sol proves a safe bet again

**I**f it's guaranteed sunshine and a tan you're after on holiday, Estepona on the Costa del Sol in Spain is a pretty safe bet, writes Zoe Walker.

The sunshine beats down for a staggering 325 days a year in this historic coastal town, which is situated around 50 miles from Malaga.

A world away from the rain and drizzle of the UK, it's been a popular destination with Brits for years.

Surrounded by mountains and sea, it's the place where Cilla Black had her Spanish home and Hollywood heavyweights Antonio Banderas and Melanie Griffith are said to have had a pad here.

Less bold and brash, more slick and laid back than nearby Marbella, and at just over an hour by road from Malaga airport, a hire car is recommended for those wanting to take in the sights around Estepona.

Seville and Cadiz are a couple of hours' drive away or there's the stunning city of Ronda nearby.

Perched high above a gorge, Ronda is home to one of Spain's oldest bullrings, and writer Ernest Heming-

way and film mogul Orson Welles were frequent visitors to the beautiful and historic Andalusian city on a mountaintop.

Also just 35 miles away is Gibraltar, with its cheap booze, petrol, wandering Barbary Macaque monkeys and views across the water to Africa.

Still under British rule, the police here wear UK uniform, even in the sweltering heat.

We took a guided taxi tour around The Rock. Costing around £90 for a family of four, it's the best way to see the sights, with stop-offs to see St Michael's Cave, the winding tunnels and ever-popular monkeys. Our guide's knowledge of the history of The Rock was amazing, and as we listened to his stories and drunk in the beauty of it all we were stunned to hear that to rent his council house cost just £60 per month, with bills coming in at only £90 per month for utilities.

The Gibraltar Government pays for its children's university education and if they undertake certain courses they're guaranteed to start a job on Gibraltar – debt free. It's fair to say he

leads a good life. And the visit was a reminder of just how different life in Spain can be for many Brits and why it is they flock there in their droves.

We rented a self-catering villa on the outskirts of town, pulling the cost down by sharing with another family.

The large private pool was a godsend, as was a covered terrace in the heat. No air conditioning but ceiling fans do make the heat bearable – and after all, that's what you've come for.

'Chiringuitos' or beachfront bar restaurants are everywhere, but it's best to be aware of where you are eating in order not to end up with a sore tummy.

Golf is a popular pastime in the area, with a slew of courses within 10-20 minutes' drive.

Kids' playgrounds are everywhere on the beaches, and the sands at Estepona are less packed and cleaner than the ones at Marbella, so it's worth the drive out there to give them a go.

● **Nearest airports: Malaga and Gibraltar. More flights fly into Malaga, which is serviced by all the major airlines.**

## Ten top travel tips for a stress free holiday

● **Keep everything together.** A boring and perhaps obvious one to begin with but start the holiday off right and keep all your travel documents in one folder, including your passport, then when you get home keep them all together for your next trip.

● **Dónde está, Quanto costa, Merci Beaucoup.** If you are visiting a country where they speak another language, take a little time to pick up on a few key phrases. 'Where is...?', 'How much?' and 'Thank you' should be the base level of your phrase artillery and is sometimes enough to last a whole holiday.

● **Hotels are not the only way.** In this new age of technology and the sharing economy you don't have to pay for a hotel room to have a good time. Airbnb has paved the way for affordable holidaying in a homely atmos-

phere and sometimes preferable locations.

● **Don't get taken for a ride.** Sometimes rental cars are essential for creating the perfect holiday but don't be lured into the common pitfalls that have affected holidaymakers in past. ALWAYS take time stamped photos of the car before you leave the rental agency and ALWAYS take out the extra insurance, you're on holiday to relax, remember!

● **Ultimate piece of mind.** Speaking of insurance, have you got it? Again, this one seems obvious but you will be surprised at how many people do not take out holiday insurance. Comparison websites are best for finding the policy that suits you but don't just choose the cheapest one as it may not cover you for the things you need.

● **Every little helps.** Avoid incurring those pesky bank fees from taking out money abroad by loading up your money on a travel bank card. Most will have free ATM cash withdrawals and some even have rewards if used in supermarkets and restaurants.

● **Shop accordingly.** Returning home from a wonderful holiday to a fridge of gone off food is a sure fire way to kill the holiday buzz. Conversely, getting home late at night after a delayed flight with no food in the house is a nightmare for most. Depending on the length of your trip, shop accordingly so nothing goes to waste but also make sure you have something in case of an emergency.

● **Be safety conscious.** If your taking an extended holiday or just concerned about the secu-

rity of your home, have a neighbour pop round every once in a while to check up on everything, they might even water your plants if you ask nicely.

● **Presents.** If you're thinking of buying someone a present, try and get it done early on in the holiday. That way you won't have the last minute panic on the last day but if all fails, there is always the duty free shop at the other end.

● **Packing.** If you want to be super organised with your potentially minimal packing space then get hold of some zip lock bags and separate your smaller fiddly bits into categories. This can make your items easily accessible and save space. The zip lock bags are especially handy for your toiletries if taking a flight and remember, they have to be below 100ml.



Plan ahead and ensure your holiday is stress-free





## City break heaven - a whistle-stop tour of Scotland's capital

Charles Dickens once said: "Coming back to Edinburgh is, to me, like coming home".

And it is easy to see why he, and so many before and after him, have fallen in love with this city, both architecturally magnificent and bustling with life – thanks in large part to its ever-growing student population – as it is.

And it was exactly that which brought us here. My niece, Lola, is three months into a fine art course in painting at Edinburgh College of Art and already calls the place home.

So, with the rest of the clan already having visited Lola this year, and with faint memories of a joyful family holiday when a youngster, it was with great anticipation that I boarded our Flybe flight from London City airport with my wife, Hayley, and our four-year-old daughter, Nellie.

Edinburgh is city break heaven. For Londoners it has the added attraction of being just a few hours away by train and only one hour by plane – by far the quickest and, if you book in advance, often the

cheapest way of getting there.

We stayed at the superb, five-star G&V Royal Mile hotel, perfectly situated as it is in the heart of the old town, whose staff made us welcome from the minute we stepped foot in the building.

Arriving late there was just time to grab a quick pizza and head for bed, but this allowed for an early start on Saturday.

After a breakfast fit for a king, we set off for our first stop of the day – Edinburgh's Christmas, a combination of the most Christmassy of Scottish and German Christmas markets, where we stocked up on open cheese and local fudge, and a funfair for Nellie to enjoy, set in the picturesque Princes Street Gardens.

A nice touch was the classy Christmas tree maze, where after Nellie has successfully found six stamps which spell out the word 'jingle', she was given a small gift. After a trip to see Father Christmas it was time to leave the markets and head back to the old town. As action-packed as Princes Street – Edinburgh's main drag –

is, if it's history and a slightly more relaxed break you're after, you're best off in the old town and around the Royal Mile, and that's where we spent most of the rest of the trip.

After a quick bite to eat we next headed for Edinburgh Castle.

The castle's history and grandeur are there for all to be seen, but what is perhaps most magnificent is the view across the city from the top, looking out in one direction over Princes Street and beyond to Hibernian FC's Easter Road ground and the open sea, and the other inland, taking in the breathtaking Forth rail bridge and the hills of the Highlands beyond.

On our walk back we stopped off at St Giles Cathedral, the dominating central place of worship of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh, in the centre of the Royal Mile, before taking Lola for a drink in Auld Jock's Kitchen – a bar which drags you in simply by its name – and a superb meal in Victoria Street's Howies restaurant.

On our final day there was time left to



Charlie, Nellie and Hayley Stong at Edinburgh Castle

spend an hour in the National Museum of Scotland – a wonderfully interactive museum for kids. Then we just about had time to head back to the hotel, grab our bags and jump on the bus to the hotel.

But this whistle-stop tour left us wanting even more.

● Flybe operates flights between London City and Edinburgh up to five times a day. Prices start from £39.99 one way, including all taxes and charges. Visit [www.flybe.com](http://www.flybe.com) to book. For further ideas and information go to [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com).

## Italy: The country that has it all

**G**reat food, culture and history, beautiful weather, some stunning coastline and friendly people – Italy's got it all. And at just two-and-a-half hours from London by plane, the country's capital city of Rome is almost quicker to get to than Surrey, these days, writes Zoe Walker.

Packed to the gills with attractions for tourists, Rome wears its heart on its sleeve. It's impossible not to be drawn in by the awe-inspiring magnificence of the place – a powerful sense of omnipresent antiquity that even London can't rival. The Vatican, the Sistine Chapel, the Roman Forum, The Pantheon, The Colosseum – there's just so much to see, do and experience. Taking it all in properly requires time. And money.

Faithfully following the tourist trail can be expensive – not necessarily because of high ticket prices, but because there is just so much to see and do – it all adds up quickly.

Cafes can be arbitrarily expensive – especially if you're eating in close to the Vatican City – and it's best to check prices before ordering to avoid a nasty shock when the bill arrives.

Overall eating out is cheaper than in other tourist areas like Venice, and because Rome is so much bigger there's more competition, which means plentiful deals are on offer in the local restaurants.

We found some great cafes, bars and eateries around the area of Trastevere serving cheap, plentiful food, making it well worth

the short trek off the main tourist trail to eat there.

Nuns shuttle backwards and forwards through the streets around The Vatican, habits billowing in the breeze, but the area is also a magnet for beggars plying their trade. Everyone says 'mind the pickpockets' on going to Rome, but we didn't encounter any problems. However there's plenty of jostling, the streets are crowded and everyone seems slightly confused about their destination, so it's best to keep everything packed away and not carry valuables at all or have them on show for safety's sake.

St Peter's Basilica is amazing – we climbed to the top of the dome and although it's pretty tough going, the views are well worth the effort. The Vatican Museum is a must see.

The Sistine Chapel is as awe inspiring as you'd expect. It makes you feel meek and overwhelmed, but tourists are definitely on a conveyor belt through here – hanging about isn't encouraged.

You marvel and you move on. It's a stark lesson in how much The Vatican City, the smallest sovereign state in the world with a population of just 842, is as much about the money as it is about anything else.

Tourism – and the pilgrims Rome attracts – are huge business.

Parks, pavements, buildings and even shops are impregnated with the scent of the city's awe-inspiring historic past as the seat of the Catholic Church and the Roman Empire. Every corner you turn there is something new to see – fountains, squares,

Roman ruins.

We visited the Colosseum, which was brilliant, and the Forum, as well as other tourist attractions like the Trevi Fountain and the Spanish Steps.

Most sights are within walking distance of each other (if you don't mind walking) and Rome is fairly user-friendly and easy to navigate, so it's not a chore to get about on foot if the weather's good.

Drivers are incredibly considerate to pedestrians and children are always welcome wherever you go, which makes it a pleasant destination for a family break. There's also a gelateria around every corner with a range of flavours from mango to triple chocolate and way, way beyond. Busy, polite, packed full of things to do and – unlike Venice – possible to do on a budget if you need to. We're planning our next trip to Rome already.

### Venice:

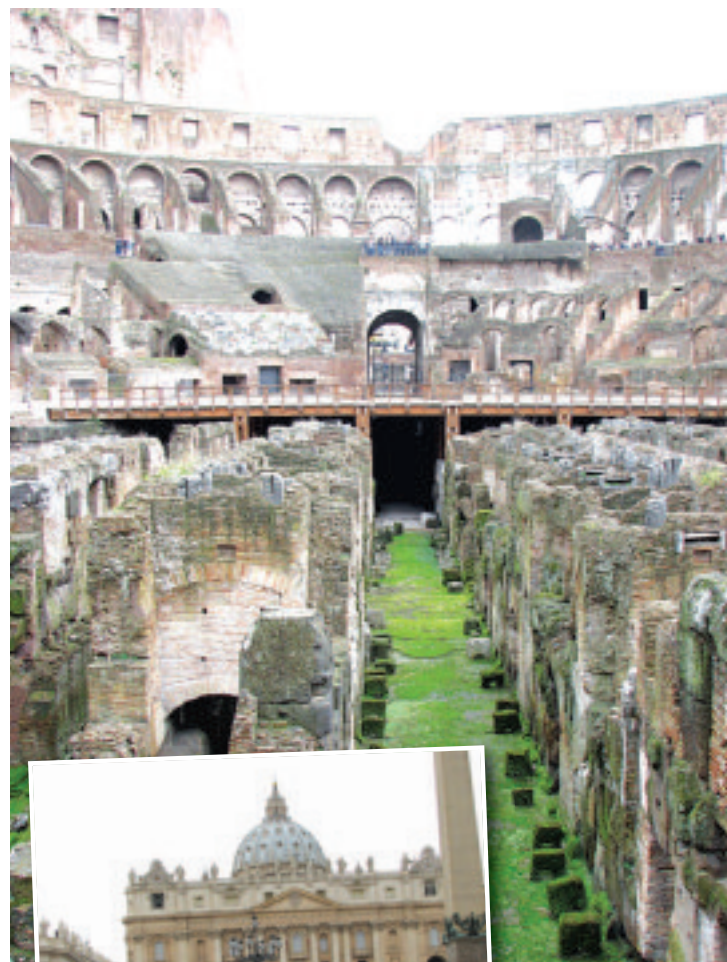
Capital of the Veneto region, Venice's beautiful canals are everywhere. Head to Caffè Florian in the Piazza San Marco for coffee – reputedly the oldest café in the world.

### Florence:

One for culture vultures. As the capital of the Tuscany region, Florence is home to some of the world's most famous works of art, including Da Vinci's Annunciation and Botticelli's Birth of Venus at the Uffizi Gallery.

### Milan:

Fashion makes the city of Milan go round, the capital of the Lombardy region in Northern Italy. Bars, restaurant, cafes and some of the world's most exclusive clothes shops are to be found here.



The Colosseum (main image) and, left, The Vatican City



# London Weekly News Group

## Reader Offers

**FLYING FROM  
LONDON GATWICK & LONDON HEATHROW**

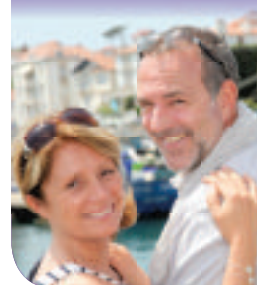


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## New York to Hollywood - The Best of the USA

**16 days from £2329** Flying from London Heathrow,  
14 May 2017

A fun- and interest-packed tour that covers the 'greatest hits' of east and west, and flies 'coast-to-coast'.

### Tour highlights

- ✓ Begin in Washington DC
- ✓ Step back in time and explore past-capital Philadelphia
- ✓ Enjoy two full days of discovery in New York City
- ✓ Fly west to San Francisco – the 'City by the Bay'
- ✓ Visit beautiful Yosemite National Park
- ✓ Enjoy two nights in exciting Las Vegas
- ✓ Gaze at the awesome Grand Canyon
- ✓ The last two nights are spent close to glorious Los Angeles
- ✓ Visit movie capital Hollywood
- ✓ Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour managers
- ✓ 14 nights' touring hotel accommodation, return flights and transfers



## Washington, New York & Niagara Falls

**8 days from £1139** Flying from London Gatwick,  
4, 17 May, 13 June, 5, 19 September & 3 October 2017

Discover a trio of historic, enthralling American cities, and one of the world's greatest natural wonders.

### Tour highlights

- ✓ Stay close to Niagara Falls, one of the natural wonders of the world
- ✓ Travel from Canada to Gettysburg
- ✓ Spend a day in Washington DC
- ✓ Discover Philadelphia
- ✓ Explore New York, one of the most exciting cities on Earth
- ✓ Journey through beautiful, forested, up-state New York
- ✓ Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager
- ✓ Six nights' room-only hotel accommodation, return flights and transfers

## American Queen - Memphis, New Orleans & Nashville

**16 days from £3649** Flying from London Heathrow,  
May, Sept, Nov 2017, Mar, May & Oct to Dec 2018

Take a classic paddlewheel steamer cruise on the mighty Mississippi.

### Tour highlights

- ✓ Overnight in Montgomery
- ✓ Spend two nights in New Orleans
- ✓ Calls include antebellum Oak Alley, Natchez, Vicksburg and Helena
- ✓ Disembark in Elvis' Memphis for a two-night stay, visiting legendary Sun Studios and Elvis Presley's former mansion home, Graceland
- ✓ Discover Nashville
- ✓ Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager
- ✓ Seven nights' full-board cruise on board *American Queen*
- ✓ Seven nights' room-only accommodation, return flights and transfers

## Fall Colours of New England & Canada

**16 days from £2129** Flying from London  
Heathrow, September & October 2017

Some of North America's most exciting, enthralling cities.

### Tour highlights

- ✓ Visit New York City, Toronto, Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Montréal, Québec City, Boston, Portland, Kennebunkport, Kingston, Plimoth Plantation & Newport
- ✓ Join the 'Maple Leaf Trail' to Ottawa
- ✓ A 'Fall Foliage' drive through the New England countryside
- ✓ 'Whale Watch' cruise at Cape Cod
- ✓ Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager
- ✓ 14 nights' touring hotel accommodation, return flights and transfers

## America's Golden West

**16 days from £1999** Flying from London  
Heathrow, May, June & August to October 2017  
California, Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon.

### Tour highlights

- ✓ Stays in Los Angeles, San Diego and Pismo beach
- ✓ Visits to the Grand Canyon and 24-hour Las Vegas
- ✓ Discover Yosemite National Park and San Francisco
- ✓ Call at Steinbeck's Monterey and Carmel-by-the-Sea
- ✓ Journey along the Pacific Coast Highway
- ✓ Visit Hollywood – movie capital of the world
- ✓ Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager
- ✓ 14 nights' room-only touring hotel accommodation, return flights and transfers



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# Capital nights

**W**HICH bands and what gigs should London's music-hungry residents be looking out for this year? *LWN* reporter **Jack Dixon** assesses which performers are worthy of your support in 2017.

## The xx

ELECTRO-ROCK pioneers The xx returned to the airwaves towards the end of last year with the flourishing comeback single *On Hold* – but 2017 will see the Wandsworth trio reach new heights of fame.

Ushering in a new wave of light-touch indie rock with their Mercury Prize-winning self-titled debut album in 2009, The xx have been trendsetters from the start.

But the weight of expectation has proved no burden for the three-piece, who are poised to release record number three – the eagerly-anticipated *I See You* – this month.

In the eight years since the band's emergence, their soft-centred sound has been aped by a generation of musicians taking their bedroom beats on to the main stage.

The likes of James Blake, London Grammar and Alt-J have all borrowed from them in recent years, playing on the band's dreamy, minimalist style to create award-winning albums.

Beat-maker general Jamie 'Jamie xx' Smith crafted his own stunning solo album two years ago and his influence is already clear on the trio's more colourful, sample-driven regeneration for 2017.

A string of sold-out dates at Brixton's O2 Academy will follow the release of *I See You* in the spring, with the band tipped among the early pacesetters for album of the year.

Despite being notoriously under the radar, this will be the year The xx finally become a household name.

## Charli XCX

POP starlet Charli XCX could become the chart sensation of 2017 as she prepares to release her most radio-friendly work to date.

The 24-year-old, who started out performing in London warehouse raves as a teenager, is said to be tapping into her wild side on her third album, scheduled for release in May.

It will see the glitter-glam singer going even more gung-ho with her candy-crush sugar-plum persona, following in the footsteps of Gwen Stefani, Nicky Minaj and Katy Perry.

Still best known for her appearance on Iona Pop's 2013 hit *I Love It*, Charli – real name Charlotte Aitchison – has already compiled two records of over-the-top bubblegum pop and bagged her own world headline tour.

Her party-girl personality and overt sex appeal are key components of the modern-day pop princess. But Charli has the knack for a dynamite hook too, showing off her impressive vocal range on latest single *After The Afterparty*.

She's recruited top producers Stargate

and BloodPop to help add the finishing touches to the new album, which is set to announce the young Brit as one of the world's most innovative and dangerous stars.

And while she is yet to breakthrough with a chart-topper of her own, it could be third time lucky for Charli XCX in 2017.

## Nadia Rose

SOUTH London rapper Nadia Rose is one of a clutch of young female artists making a stand in the traditionally male-dominated arena of hip-hop and grime.

The 23-year-old first drew attention for her homemade – and more than a little dangerous – music video for the track *Station*, which depicted her rapping to camera moments before a train hurtles past her on the tracks beside. Needless to say there was no planning or permission involved.

Later she body-popped over London streets on the joyously choreographed video for *Skwod*, aping the charismatic performance style made famous by the likes of her heroes Missy Elliot and Lil Kim.

Not since Ms Dynamite's commercial breakthrough in the early 2000s, however, has a female artist threatened to seize control of the scene in the way that Nadia Rose promises to this year.

Already tipped in the BBC's top five Sound of 2017 acts, she is beginning to catch the eye of influential change-makers across the industry.

Rose has her heart set on bringing a Grammy home to Croydon one day – but for the time being she's happy simply doing what she does best.

"I'm in my element," she revealed in a recent interview. "I'm doing the thing I love and I'm being able to share that with people."

## Wolf Alice

COMBINING the self-reflective emotional delicacy of folk music with the driving rhythms of rock, Wolf Alice have emerged as one of the UK's freshest young bands.

The North Londoners broke through in 2015 with their critically acclaimed debut album *My Love Is Cool* and picked up a string of gongs, including nominations for the Ivor Novello and Grammy awards.

Comparisons have been drawn with grunge group Hole and 1990s new-wavers Elastica – but in truth Wolf Alice are every bit a beast of their own making.

They are tipped for big things with album number two in 2017 – and the next 12 months could see the four-piece make the leap to top dogs in the UK indie rock scene.

Early indications for the direction of the as yet unannounced follow-up record point to a harder-edged sound, with the new track *Yuk Foo* teased to audiences on the band's US tour.

Whenever the band do confirm their return, fans and critics alike will be championing at the bit for a taste of the fresh material.

At a time when guitar rock is fast going out of fashion, Wolf Alice are living proof that old dogs really can learn new tricks.



Wolf Alice



The xx



Charli XCX



Nadia Rose

## Four tickets to see Adele? That's £36,000

IT may be a good idea for rock fans planning to see their heroes perform in London this summer to first win the National Lottery before trying to find any tickets, writes **Geoff Baker**.

Because although a very few tickets are still available for some of the superstars' shows, most of the gigs are sold out and touts are cashing in at unprecedented levels on the demand for a seat or just a small space to stand.

The touts are making such a killing that if you fancied treating your partner and a couple of kids to see Adele during her four-show, sold-out run at Wembley Stadium at the end of June, get yourself a stiff drink now – as you'll be looking at forking out up to £36,000 for four good seats on the black market.

Alternatively, you could put your name down for the new Audi A6, which will be launching around the same time, and save yourself a grand.

Or you could book every ticket for the 250-capacity *Night Of New Music* which takes place at the Half Moon in Putney a couple of days before Adele's opening night on June 28, buy all of your guests three drinks and a burger each, and save £28,388 – and possibly get to see the next Adele as the Half Moon showcases "a night of new music and discovery" at the £2.50-entry show.

While rock pubs like the Half Moon are working hard to give a platform and an audience to the next generation of great talent, those

who have already made it to legend status are seeing demand like never before for their summer shows.

Take That's six dates at the O2 in June are pretty much all gone. And with the exception of a handful of seats on June 12 which will be all gone soon, fans will have to turn to the scalpers who have already whacked up the resale of £60 tickets to £825 – and that price will rise.

There's still some £74 general-admission tickets available to see Tom Petty And The Heartbreakers supported by Stevie Nicks at Hyde Park on July 9, but they too may have gone by the time you read this.

Don't leave it too late to see Guns N' Roses' return at London Stadium on June 16 and 17 – even at £164 standing, they are going like the clappers.

For those who have the spare cash, one way to leap to the front of the queue is to go for the VIP package at such super gigs. But you do need the money, as one standing seat for Guns N' Roses' *Welcome To The Jungle Ultimate Package* will set you back £840.

But the package does include: a souvenir Guns N' Roses laminate, a "limited edition GN'R VIP gift pack", VIP commemorative ticket, "exclusive access to the elevated VIP riser located on the field with unobstructed views of the stage and complimentary bar with beers and wine" and further exclusive access to "an intimate backstage tour: go behind the scenes and ask select members of GN'R crew what

it takes to put an elaborate production together".

And if the lure of that has not got you salivating, there's also: "Go on stage before the show for a group photo opportunity."

Although a group photo opportunity may imply, as it does to us, a photo op with the group, read the terms and conditions before getting your hopes high of coming away with a snap of you hugging Axl Rose. For lower down in the description of the fabulous VIP deal it says: "No band members included in on-stage group photo."

Never mind, there's always the best left to last – Bob Dylan's *Never Ending Tour* arrives at The SSE Arena, Wembley, on May 9. Although it has pretty much sold out, a few £110 to £137 tickets were still being advertised last week – but they will all go long before the show and again fans will be at the mercy of the touts.

Although the highly unpredictable Dylan is not famous for group photo opportunities, he is legendary for doing the unexpected – including the occasional surprise gig like the one he staged when he turned up unannounced at his grandson's kindergarten school in Los Angeles.

So for fans who won't be able to afford tout rates, it could be worth hanging out at The Troubadour around the time he's in town, in case he gets nostalgic. Back in 1962 under the name Blind Boy Grunt, Dylan played the Old Brompton Road cellar bar and maybe he'll return. Unlikely – but with Dylan you never know.



# Fashion-icon status of Diana, Wales, to be celebrated in new

**A** NEW exhibition celebrating the fashion-icon status of Diana, Princess of Wales, leads the list of winter events coming up at the royal palaces. *Diana: Her Fashion Story* opens February 24 at Kensington Palace. The exhibition traces the evolution of the princess' style over two decades, from the demure, romantic outfits of her first public appearances, to the glamour, elegance and confidence of her later life.

"From her earliest royal engagements, everything Diana wore was closely scrutinised, and the exhibition will explore how she navigated her unique position in the public eye: learning to use her image to engage and inspire people, and to champion the causes she cared about," said a spokesman for Historic Royal Palaces.

Entry to the exhibition is included in palace admission; £18 adults, children free.

Other highlights at the palaces include *Armoury In Action*, now open at the Tower of London.

An all-new, hands-on experience, *Armoury In Action* reveals the fascinating story of arms and armour at the Tower of London.

From shooting arrows to assembling firearms and brandishing swords, a thousand years of history will be brought to life through a mix of historic objects, audio-visual displays and interactive displays.

Created in partnership with Royal Armouries – the national museum of arms and armour – *Armoury In Action* offers families the chance to discover the weapons, battle skills and royal armourers from the Normans to the Victorian era.

Entry to the exhibition is included in Tower admission; adults £25, children £12.

*The People's Revolt* will take place on selected dates in March at 6pm, 6.30pm, 7pm, 7.25pm and 7.50pm at the Tower of London.

Infiltrate the Tower of London after hours – *The People's Revolt* is an immersive, interactive experience from groundbreaking theatre company differenceEngine in collaboration with Historic Royal Palaces.

Experience what it's like to be at the centre of a present-day Peasants' Revolt. Live the build-up through digital storytelling then blur the lines between history and reality as you storm the Tower and decide the fate of the nation. Tickets: £22.50/£20.50.

*Life In The Medieval Palace* is running until February 10 and again from February 20 to April 13 at the Tower of London (11am to 12.30pm and 1pm to 3.30pm).

Step back into 1299 and the palace of King Edward I, Hammer of the Scots, and explore a world of chivalrous knights and beautiful ladies, troublesome lords and royal prisoners. There are money problems at home, too, as the King leads his armies off to war.

Enter the Medieval palace in the year 1299. England has been at war for much of King Edward I's reign. Included in palace admission.

*Ghost Tours* take place on Saturdays and Sundays to February 26 (6pm and 7.15pm) at Hampton Court Palace.

Visit the spot where two bodies were discovered in shallow graves in the 1870s, hear the tale of the Tudor royal nurse whose spirit is said to stalk her former apartments, and decide for yourself the origin of the mysterious figure caught on CCTV in the palace in the dead of night as you experience the unique atmosphere of Hampton Court after dark. Tickets: £27.50.

*Twilight Tours* will take place on selected Sundays to April 2 at the Tower of London.

Yeoman Warders give an exclusive twilight tour of the Tower. Take in world-famous sights such as Traitor's Gate, the scaffold site



**The fashion-icon status of Diana, Princess of Wales, is being documented in a new exhibition at Kensington Palace. The exhibition opens next month**

and the Bloody Tower, and be appalled and amazed by tales of prisoners and past residents. Tickets: £27.50/£25 Historic Royal Palaces members.

*Eerie Evening Tours* are on January 13, 20 and 27 and February 3, 10, 17 and 24 at Kensington Palace (6.45pm).

When all the gates are locked and the lights are out, is the palace truly asleep? Explore the weird and wonderful world of Victorian spiritualism and the 19th-century obsession with life after death. Be guided through the shadowy state apartments to relive the sorrow of heartbroken kings and frustrated future queens. Tickets: £27.50/£24.75 Historic Royal Palaces members; unsuitable for children aged under 16.

*Brunchtime Lecture: Panto And Performance* will take place on Saturday January 14 (11am to 12.30pm) at Kensington Palace.

This lecture gives an insight into the world of Victorian pantomime, music hall, theatre and performance. Find out more about cross-dressing actors and backstage shenanigans in an era that brought entertainment to the masses. Hear from Kate Howard, historian and creative director for the UK's oldest professional costumed historical interpretation company, Past Pleasures Ltd. Tickets: £15/£12 members and concessions (includes glass of Buck's Fizz).

*Curious Connections – Jewish History Of The Tower* will take place on Tuesday January 24 (7pm to 8.30pm) at the Tower of London.

The Jewish community has played an important part in the City of London since 1066 but things have not always been easy or straightforward.

The tumultuous relationship with the Crown has ranged from Jews being valued as advisers to vilified as criminals.

Listen in on the panel as they explore the



part the Tower played in Jewish history and the important role the Jewish community continues to play in London today. Tickets: £10/£9 members and concessions (includes glass of wine)

*Make History* workshops will be held on January 28, February 25 and March 25 (11.30am, 11.5pm and 2.45pm) at Kensington Palace

Get hands-on with the palace's creative workshops for families. Be inspired by a new palace story each month, and make a piece of the past by taking part in a range of exciting activities, from gardening and painting to chocolate making. Included in palace admission.

*Time Explorer Station* (for those aged five to 11) will take place on January 28, February 25 and March 25 (11am to 4pm) at Kensington Palace.

Explore the palace and discover its stories using the palace's themed activity bags, games, trails and make and takes.

Pick up your choice of story adventure from the Time Explorer Station inside the palace. Included in palace admission.

*Tiny Explorers* – for under-fours – will take place on selected Wednesdays and Saturdays in February and March (10.30am for babies, and 1pm and 2.30pm for walkers) at Kensington Palace.

Explore and play in the palace together. Discover the stories of Kensington Palace through music, movement, messy play and more. Tickets: £6 per child (price includes up to two adults)/£5 per child for members.

*Palace Pub Quiz* will be held on Friday February 3 (6pm to 9.30pm) at Banqueting House.

The event is back for the second year. Banqueting House will host a pub quiz with a difference. Sit under the beautiful ceiling painted by Sir Peter Paul Rubens and test



your knowledge of current affairs, sport, art, food and film. There will be a few rounds for history lovers but plenty of other subjects as well, so pick your team wisely for this fun, fast-paced quiz, with prizes, drinks and "some surprises". Tickets: £15.

*Tower Of Love: Romance Is Dead* will take place on February 13 (6.30pm to 9pm) at the Tower of London.

This is an anti-Valentines sketching special, dedicated to those who died at the Tower in the name of love. Enter the drama and



# Princess of exhibition

tragedy of the Tudor court, and explore Henry VIII's doomed love affair with Anne Boleyn. Sketch costumed models, posing as their ghosts, at the site of her burial in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula. Plus create miniature love tokens, with guest artist Lozzy Bones, in the chapel's crypt. Tickets: £24/£20 concessions.

February half-term sees *Palace Adventures*, from Saturday February 11 to Sunday February 19 (11am and 3pm) at Hampton Court Palace.

Become a Time Explorer and discover the stories of Hampton Court Palace by taking part in a fun-filled palace adventure. Meet characters, solve puzzles and create your own piece of the past.

Aimed at children aged five to 11. Involvement is included in palace admission – adults £21, children £10.50.

February half-term also sees *Beautiful Things* from Sunday February 12 to Saturday February 18 (11am to 3pm) at Kensington Palace.

Kensington Palace is offering the chance to become a treasure hunter and to explore beautiful things hidden inside the palace.

This February half-term is themed around art and the Georgian Court. Families will be able to try out the first Digital Mission at Kensington and create a great artwork fit for a king or queen.

There'll even be a chance to dress up as a Georgian, meet a costumed character and hear their palace stories, as well as follow a paper trail or pick up an activity bag.

From bright ideas to treasured objects, there is much to discover. In-

volvement is included in palace admission.

*Story Scramble – Tower At War* will take place from Monday February 13 to Friday February 17 (11am to 3.30pm) at the Tower of London.

Uncover the dramatic history of the Tower during wartime, through the *Story Scramble* trail. Along the trail, there will be a chance to meet the characters and handle historic objects in order to unscramble stories in the spaces where history happened. Included in palace admission.

*Culture Breaks* will be held from Sunday March 19 to Friday March 24, for £650 per head excluding accommodation.

A Historic Royal Palaces spokesman said: "This is the perfect way to experience London's history over one fun-filled week."

Each day there'll be a chance to visit a different Historic Royal Palace site and enjoy private guided tours, expert lectures, tasting workshops inspired by historic food and drink, and explore areas of the palaces usually restricted from the public.

This event is limited to 40 adults to ensure that each guest is given the VIP treatment. There will also be some free time for guests to explore the palaces at their leisure.

*Digital Missions* take place daily at the Tower of London.

Go on an interactive adventure and prepare the Tower for the King's arrival or help a prisoner plan their perilous escape. Download the app before your visit. Included in palace admission.

For further information, go to [hrp.org.uk](http://hrp.org.uk).



## Stylish Queen inspires the 'in' look for spring

HER Majesty the fashion Queen has done it again, inspiring the style gurus to announce that this spring's must-wear colour will be her favourite shade – yellow.

Even in her 91st year, the Queen continues to lead the trends and soon we'll all be walking out in her primrose look.

Although yellow has long been a colour that many women have avoided, due to it doing little or nothing for those of a paler skin, designers of the "in" look for spring have taken inspiration from the Queen to make it the new hue for the season.

Catwalks in London and New York were like a field of buttercups when models recently showed off the new collections – and fashion editors at *The Times* have now announced "forget pink, yellow leads the way for 2017".

While other style leaders have long preferred to look moody and svelte in black, the Queen has been wearing yellow for at least 60 years – because it's practical, at least for Her Majesty.

The practicality comes from the demands of Her Majesty's role. When out in public at garden parties or on parades she is obliged to stand out in a crowd and little draws the eye more instantly than looking like a splash of sunshine.

As Her Majesty once remarked, and as our gallery of her looking mellow throughout the years reveals, "I can't wear beige because people won't know who I am".

The Queen's fashion tactic has now also been adopted by the Duchess of Cambridge, who "went banana" for a number of public events last year including Wimbledon.

Given the impetus of the Kate Factor, expect to see the Big Bird Look all over the high streets when the weather warms up.

## Hardly a moment's peace

PITY the Queen. Besides getting a stinking cold for Christmas, she also only had one day off.

Although Her Majesty's illness made her skip going to church twice during her traditional break at Sandringham, she did not get much of a moment's peace because of the incessant knock of government at her door.

Only on Christmas Day and Easter Sunday is the Queen relieved of her "homework", her office duties of reading the contents of the red boxes sent to her by every ministry and by embassies and governors general of her 15 other realms around the world.

And it's a lot of reading; royal experts say that the Queen can receive in the boxes as many as up to 60 pages of official documents a day – meaning that between leaving for Sandringham on December 21 to New Year's Day, Her



Majesty had to plough up to 660 pages of complex, dryly-written correspondence.

The documents can include classified security briefings, weekly summaries from the governors general, telegrams from the Foreign Office and cabinet minutes – just what you want when you're in bed with a hacking cough, feeling wretched.

And to make matters even more demanding, if

any of the red boxes come from Canada, many of the pages contained will be in French – which, fortunately, Her Majesty reads fluently.

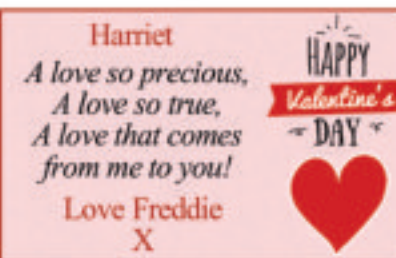
As our maths editor calculates that during her 64-year reign Her Majesty has worked through up to 1,393,920 pages of matters of state, or some 700 million words, it's not hard to see why she is considered the world's hardest-working royal.

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# Schools funding plans could hamper pupils' progress – top teachers

TOP teachers in Hammersmith and Fulham have warned that plans to change the way schools are funded could threaten children's progress in class.

The heads of two of the borough's biggest schools are among the latest to speak out against the government's controversial shake-up of education funding.

Senior teachers at Fulham College Boys' School and the Sir John Lillie Primary School warned of the potentially "disastrous" impact of the policy on their pupils.

It comes after an analysis by the National Union of Teachers named Hammersmith and Fulham as one of the areas hardest hit by funding cuts in recent years.

Peter Haylock, executive principal at Fulham College Boys' School, Fulham Cross Girls' School and the Fulham Enterprise Studio, said: "I don't understand why the government is doing this."

"A lot of our costs come from employing people. If there are significant cuts to our budget, then we'll have to look at all areas of the school and decide what to do – it's potentially disastrous."

"It's very short-sighted. Any threat to our budget is a threat to the key part of what we do."

Sue Hayward, headteacher at Sir John Lillie Primary School, said: "It's going to have a real impact on staff, on support staff in particular."

"If pupils don't have someone to teach and help them learn in small groups then their progress suffers."

Hammersmith and Fulham council has warned that some of the borough's schools could be forced to close under the government's forthcoming "fairer funding" proposals.

Town-hall chiefs fear funding for local schools will be slashed and redistributed to other parts of the country.

It follows a NUT analysis that suggested schools in Hammersmith and Fulham were almost £400 worse off per pupil than before the 2015 general election.

Schools were already being forced to make their own budget cuts because funding had not been increased to cover costs, the union said.

Cllr Sue Fennimore, the council's cabinet member for social inclusion, said the policy was "like robbing Peter to pay Paul" and warned that schools could not afford any reductions in their "vital" funding.

The Department for Education said the schools budget had been protected in recent years and that it now totalled more than £40 billion – the highest on record.

A spokesman said: "The government's fairer funding proposals will ensure that areas with the highest need attract the most funding and end the historic unfairness in the system."



Pupils at Sir John Lillie Primary School in Fulham



Peter Haylock, executive principal at Fulham College Boys' School, Fulham Cross Girls' School and the Fulham Enterprise Studio



Sue Hayward, headteacher at Sir John Lillie Primary School

## Man who killed former colleague after shoe prank faces jail term

A CITY worker, who killed a former colleague with a single punch after his shoe was thrown out of a taxi window in a drunken prank, faces jail.

Alexander Thomson, 32, attacked Thomas Hulme, 23, after a night out with former work colleagues after losing his job at a recruitment firm in Farringdon in August last year.

They had jumped in a minicab with three other passengers near Farringdon station after drinking nearby.

Mr Hulme threw Thomson's shoe out of the window – and Thomson responded by punching him in the head.

The victim collapsed – and at around 11.20pm, the taxi driver stopped by the junction with Old Seacoal Lane, near Ludgate Circus in the City.

Emergency services were called to the scene and Mr Hulme was taken to hospital.

Mr Hulme, of Tooting, died the following evening.

Thomson was arrested and charged with manslaughter. At the Old Bailey, he pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

Wearing a dark blue suit and tie, and with short brown hair, he spoke only to enter a guilty plea.

Members of the victim's family were in court during the hearing.

Lisa Wilding QC, defending, said Thomson's defence team would be seeking expert evidence from a psychiatrist or psychologist.

She said: "The defendant has since these tragic events been seeing two different counsellors in respect of both alcohol consumption and more specifically the underlying issues that might have been masked by that alcohol consumption."

"Can I make clear that Alexander Thomson recognises that a custodial sentence will be the expected sentence following his guilty plea."

"It is, however, a case where we submit all of the circumstances of this case are such that the court should know why it is that matters escalated to the level that they did that night, with the wholly unexpected but tragic consequences."

"He now abstains completely from alcohol."

Summarising the incident at an earlier hearing, Judge Wendy Joseph QC said: "Mr Alexander Thomson was out drinking with a group of friends at a place where he recently lost his employment."

"On the way home, one of the other young men, apparently in a spirit of jest, threw his shoe out of the window, in response to which this defendant punched him in the head."

"Shortly afterwards, the young man collapsed and died."

Sentencing was adjourned until March 10. Thomson, of Broomwood Road, Wandsworth, was granted conditional bail.

## Shop local, MP urges residents

CHELSEA and Fulham MP Greg Hands has called on his constituents to shop local in a bid to support budding entrepreneurs.

The minister toured small businesses in Chelsea and Fulham as part of a nationwide campaign to promote local shops.

Mr Hands said: "In Chelsea and Fulham we can be really proud of our unique small businesses, which are vital not only to our neighbourhood's character but also to the health of the local economy."



**THE world's first hydrogen-powered double-decker bus will be trialled in London this year as part of a scheme to phase out "dirty" diesel buses.**

London mayor Sadiq Khan said that no more "dirty" pure diesel buses would be added to Transport for London's fleet from 2018.

Every new single-decker bus made for Central London will also be zero-emission.

Mr Khan said: "I'm implementing hard-hitting measures to clean up London's toxic air. I want London to become a world leader in hydrogen and electric bus technology."

Eleven other major cities have agreed to phase out pure diesel buses by the end of 2020. These include New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Amsterdam, Copenhagen and Cape Town.





# Talk of the town

**F**OLLOWING two highly successful regional runs, the acclaimed stage adaptation of Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* officially opens in the West End next week, writes Nicky Sweetland.

Based on the internationally best-selling novel, the play has been adapted by Matthew Spangler and stars former BBC *Casualty* star Ben Turner.

The original 2003 novel has become a bestselling book around the world, published in 70-plus countries and selling more than 31.5 million copies in 60 different languages.

Ben is no stranger to the theatre and knew from a young age that the profession was where his future would lead.

His father – Graham Turner – was part of the RSC and the young actor felt determined to follow in his footsteps.

After training at Dulwich College and The Guildford School of Acting and Drama, Ben went on to score success, most notably for his roles as nurse Jay Faldren on BBC's *Casualty* and Louis XV in *Doctor Who*.

I caught up with Ben in his dressing room at the Wyndham's Theatre, where the cast enjoyed a busy run of previews over the festive period.

Ben said: "The book was very much our bible in terms of approaching the play. Loosely the play is about a family that are torn apart by a horrible secret and I suppose, slightly bigger than that, it's about how fear and guilt can drive us to make some terrible decisions that we have to deal with forever and it's ultimately about having a chance of redemption."

The award-winning tale of friendship, betrayal and atonement spans cultures and continents as it follows one man's attempt to confront his past and find redemption. Set in

Afghanistan, a divided country on the verge of war, it shows two childhood friends who find themselves about to be torn apart.

Ben plays Amir, a well-to-do Pashtun boy, who after failing to prevent an act of violence against his friend Hassan attempts to atone for this transgression by rescuing Hassan's son more than two decades later.

"He's been running from this terrible secret for his whole life and at the beginning of the show he decides enough is enough and he's not going to run any more – he's going to come clean and tell the audience this heartbreaking story," said Ben.

Afghanistan in 1975 is a divided country on the verge of war – and two childhood friends are about to be torn apart. It's a beautiful afternoon in Kabul and the skies are full of the excitement and joy of a kite-flying tournament. Neither Hassan nor Amir can foresee the terrible incident which will shatter their lives forever.

"Amir isn't able to stand up in that moment and fight for his friend Hassan and as a result he has to make some terrible decisions, which are the wrong decisions and result in the family being torn apart," said Ben.

It's been a long journey from the play's conception to its West End premiere, with the first stage adaptation seen almost 10 years ago at the San Jose State University. After a number of further productions in the US, the play received its European premiere at the Nottingham Playhouse in 2013, which is where Ben was first introduced to the character of Amir.

He said: "I read the book before I came to the show and I didn't like this character and a lot of people don't. I remember reading it for the first time and being livid with him, so it was

interesting trying to get an angle on a character I didn't necessarily like that much; it was tricky, I'm not going to lie.

"Ultimately we all make mistakes and we can all look back at things we didn't handle well or situations when we could have been kinder. There are kids who can stand up to the bully and kids who can't. Amir just didn't have that faculty as a kid and as a consequence some horrible things happened. I got over that and decided I didn't need to like the character and that I just needed to commit to it and let people make up their own mind."

Since the first draft, the script has continued to be adapted and is more streamlined for West End audiences. Ben is excited to be reprising the role and speaks with a passion about the show.

He said: "It's such a blessing to be able to return to a part and a story and just let it settle. I'm a slightly different person from the one I was four or five years ago, so I'm going to bring different things to it."

"What's amazing about this show is that there's no tricks, no gimmicks, there's no big star playing the lead, it's just humble old-school storytelling at its best and I think the West End needs more of that."

The show is directed by Giles Croft and is attracting a diverse audience, as it's a popular text for school students.

Ben said: "It's an incredible story that anyone can relate to and hopefully something that you will think about for a long time."

*The Kite Runner* is playing at Wyndham's Theatre for a limited season until March 11.

For more details, visit [delfontmackintosh.co.uk/tickets/thekiterunner/](http://delfontmackintosh.co.uk/tickets/thekiterunner/) or [thekiterunner.asp](http://thekiterunner.asp).

on the 1967 Academy Award-winning film.

*Thoroughly Modern Millie* is on at the New Wimbledon Theatre between Tuesday, January 17 and Saturday, January 21. See [atgtickets.com](http://atgtickets.com) or call the box office on 0844 871 7646 for full listings.

It is on at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley, between Monday, June 5 and Saturday, June 10. Visit [churchilltheatre.co.uk](http://churchilltheatre.co.uk) or call the box office on 020 3285 6000.

**THE KITE RUNNER**  
comes to the West End next week

Ben Turner, left, and Andrei Costin star in *The Kite Runner*



## Strictly star set to dazzle as flapper Millie

JOANNE Clifton, pictured, star of the BBC's *Strictly Come Dancing*, is set to dazzle as Millie Dillmount in a touring production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.

The award-winning musical begins a nationwide tour on Tuesday, January 17 at the New Wimbledon Theatre.

Clifton will take on the title role of the Kansas girl determined to make it big in New York City in the 1920s. She will be joined on stage by former *EastEnders* star Michelle



Collins who takes on the role of Mrs Meers.

Winner of six Tony Awards including best musical, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* is based

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# Talk of the town

## Fresh and faultless version of classic



Rent  
St James Theatre  
\*\*\*\*\*

SET in 1990s New York, when swathes of the population felt disconnected from regular society, Jonathan Larson's cult musical *Rent* has obvious relevance to our current socioeconomic climate, writes Nicky Sweetland.

Twenty years since *Rent* was first produced, Bruce Guthrie has breathed new life into the groundbreaking stage show, which – with a fantastically youthful and exuberant cast – has enjoyed a sold-out run at the St James Theatre.

The climate of fear surrounding the near-epidemic of HIV and AIDS has abated over the last two decades. But the disparate feeling of a group of bohemian artists struggling to come to terms with a life of destitution and terminal illness somehow manages to garner further importance in today's world.

Although the essence of the original production has been retained, there isn't an ounce of pastiche and we are instead treated to a fresh and faultless production, with Lee Proud's dramatic choreography helping to express the diverse range of circumstances.

Leading the charge with a monumental perfor-

mance is Layton Williams who steals the show as the glorious drag queen Angel. The high-kicking, back-flipping star offers some smooth RnB vocals, while subtly switching from energetic sprite to fading spirit.

Williams isn't the only one who showcases an astonishing vocal aptitude, with Ryan O'Gorman's beautiful baritone giving a soothing sensation, while Lucie Jones and Shaney Holmes, as lovers Maureen and Joanne, exquisitely embrace the powerful duet *Take Me Or Leave Me*.

The multi-levelled set, by Anna Fleischle, adds to the impact, with exposed scaffolding giving an appealing rawness which complements Larson's cool and contemporary score.

For those of you who have not yet experienced this cult musical, I urge you to do so.

Guthrie's production is a triumph and further cements *Rent* in musical-theatre history as one of the best musicals written.

*Rent runs at the St James Theatre until January 28 and is sold out but you can contact the theatre for returns. The show will head off on tour again, with visits to Bromley (February 6 to 11) and Woking (March 7 to 11). See [rentonstage.co.uk](http://rentonstage.co.uk) for more details.*

FRESH from the final of the BBC's *Strictly Come Dancing*, Danny Mac and West End leading lady Carley Stenson will be playing the roles of Sam and Annie in the world premiere of *Sleepless*, the new musical based on the Tristar Pictures Inc film *Sleepless In Seattle*.

The production will open at Theatre Royal Plymouth followed by a week at The Lowry, Salford, and finishing at Bord Gais Energy Theatre, Dublin, prior to a West End run.

Like the much-loved movie, *Sleepless* tells the heartwarming tale of Sam, who moves to Seattle with his eight-year-old son Jonah following the death of his wife.

When Jonah phones a radio show, Sam is forced to talk live on air about his broken heart and sleepless nights, and he suddenly finds himself one of the most sought-after single men in America and a great news story for feisty journalist Annie on the opposite side of the country.

A fresh and lively book alongside a brand-new musical score bring this most timeless of romantic comedies to life on stage.

Mac is best known for playing the role of Mark 'Dodger' Savage in Channel 4's *Hollyoaks*. He was given his first professional role as Gavroche in Cameron Mackintosh's touring production of *Les Misérables*, a role he reprised in London's West End at the Palace Theatre in 1999.

After graduating from drama school, he went straight into

*Wicked* at the Apollo Victoria. Most recently, he played Warner in *Legally Blonde* at the Leicester Curve.

Stenson played the role of Steph Cunningham in *Hollyoaks* for 10 years. West End credits include starring as Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde*, Princess Fiona in *Shrek The Musical* and Lady of the Lake in *Spamalot*. She also starred as Christine Colgate in the national tour of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*.

Mac and Stenson are joined by Jennie Dale as Becky and Cory English as Rob.

Dale's most recent theatre credits include Maggie Jones in *2nd Street* (Theatre du Chatelet, Paris), Deb in *Elf* (Dominion Theatre), Dora in *Singin' In The Rain* (Theatre du Chatelet, Paris) and Mae in *The Pajama Game* (Shaftesbury Theatre). On television, she has appeared in *The Tracey Ullman Show* and *Victoria Wood's Mid Life Christmas*.

English can currently be seen in *She Loves Me* at the Menier Chocolate Factory. His many previous musical-theatre credits include Max Bialystock in the UK tour of *The Producers*, Igor in *Young Frankenstein* on Broadway, Max Bialystock in *The Producers* on Broadway, and Benny Southstreet in Michael Grandage's West End production of *Guys & Dolls*.

*Sleepless* will run from April 1 to 5 at the Theatre Royal Plymouth. Further details of the West End run will be released soon.

For updates on news and casting, see [sleeplessthemusical.com](http://sleeplessthemusical.com).

Previewing  
**SLEEPLESS**  
– a new musical  
based on hit film  
**Sleepless  
In Seattle**



## Jazz star gives audience an exhilarating night out

Joe Stilgoe  
Lyric Hammersmith  
\*\*\*\*\*

EVEN a ticket fiasco failed to dampen my Christmas spirit as I was treated to an exquisitely presented and perfectly structured festive night of music from one of the UK's favourite showmen, writes Nicky Sweetland.

Joe Stilgoe has become one of the most revered jazz and swing artists of his generation. And the accomplished music man played three sold-out nights at the Lyric Hammersmith during December.

Along with his 14-piece Big Band, the acclaimed virtuoso revelled in the opportunity to captivate his guests with a festive programme of music, woven between jazz classics and some self-penned favourites.



Act one's highlights included Louis Prima's *Time To Say Goodnight*, Nat King Cole's *Almost Like Being In Love* and the fantastic *Rainbows In My Teacup*.

There was also a guest spot from the Kansas Smitty's quartet, who exhibited a wealth of boogie-woogie expertise before Stilgoe joined them on stage for a grand rendition of *The Christmas Song*.

For the second instalment, Stilgoe treated the enthusiastic audience to one of his improvised masterpieces – using suggestion from the crowd, which resulted in a hilarious mixture of Mozart, Disney and *Bewitched*.

There was further audience participation with a sing-along of *We Should Kiss* followed by the "antidote to Mariah Carey" entitled *What Do You Hope To Get*.

Stilgoe's success is in part down to his ability to create a homely atmosphere, even when performing in a large venue.

His charisma and abundance of cheeky charm are totally captivating.

And when this is coupled with Stilgoe's prodigious musical talent, the result is an utterly exhilarating experience.



FULL casting has been announced for *Ugly Lies The Bone*, the honest and funny drama by Lindsey Ferrentino, which makes its European premiere in the National's Lyttelton Theatre on February 22.

The stellar cast, who will join the previously announced Kate Fleetwood (last seen at the National Theatre in *King Lear* and in the feature film *London Road*), are Ralf Little (BBC's *The Royle Family*, *Two Pints Of Lager And A Packet Of Crisps*, currently appearing in *Dead Funny* at the Vaudeville Theatre), Kris Marshall (BBC's *My Family* and the feature film *Love Actually*), Buffy Davis (BBC Radio 4's *The Archers*) and Olivia Darnley (who recently toured in Filton Theatre's *Twelfth Night*).

For more details, visit [nationaltheatre.org.uk](http://nationaltheatre.org.uk).



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To apply for this role, please send a completed application form with cover letter to [wandsworth@hctgroup.org](mailto:wandsworth@hctgroup.org) before 16 January 2017. A full job description and application form can be found at [www.hctgroup.org/jobs](http://www.hctgroup.org/jobs). For an informal talk about the role, call on 0203 5595900. No agencies please.

**citizens  
advice**

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Go to [www.caml.org.uk/about/volunteer](http://www.caml.org.uk/about/volunteer) for more details of our roles and how to apply or email us on [volunteering@caml.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@caml.org.uk)

To meet us face to face for more information, please come and join us at Morden Baptist Church from 10am till 12pm on the 26th January.

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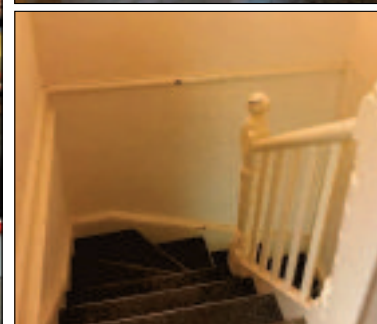
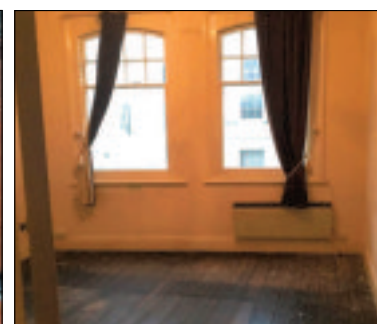
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**Continued on next page**

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# Public Notices

## SCHEDULE 2

Notices under articles 13 and 36  
(England) Order 2015  
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)

### NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Proposed development at Unit 4 Waldo Road, London NW10 6AW (ref. 2016/04248/FUL) I give notice that Mr. Chris Flynn is applying to the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Council for planning permission to carry out the following development: excavation of front garden and part of rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the creation of basement; erection of an additional floor at roof level in connection with the creation of one four bedroom self-contained flat at basement and ground floor levels and two self-contained flats at first and second floor levels at Unit 4 Waldo Road, London NW10 6AW. Any owner\* of the land or tenant\*\* who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Council at Hammersmith Planning and Development, King Street, London W6 9JU (W: www.lbhf.gov.uk) by 24.01.17.

\* "owner" means a person having a freehold interest or a leasehold interest the unexpired term of which is not less than 7 years, or, in the case of development consisting of the winning or working of minerals, a person entitled to an interest in a mineral in the land (other than oil, gas, coal, gold or silver). \*\* "tenant" means a tenant of an agricultural holding any part of which is comprised in the land. Signed Paul Vick architects Ltd Date 21.12.16

Statement of owners' rights The grant of planning permission does not affect owners' rights to retain or dispose of their property, unless there is some provision to the contrary in an agreement or in a lease. Statement of agricultural tenants' rights The grant of planning permission for non-agricultural development may affect agricultural tenants' security of tenure.

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THE A3212 ROAD (CHELSEA EMBANKMENT, ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA) (TEMPORARY 20 M.P.H. SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2017

1. Transport for London hereby gives notice that it intends to make the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
2. The purpose of the Order is to enable Gas Main Replacement works to take place on A3212 Chelsea Embankment.
3. The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle from exceeding a speed limit of 20 M.P.H. on the A3212 Chelsea Embankment between its junctions with Chelsea Bridge Road and Tite Street whilst gas main replacement works is occurring. The Order will be effective from 12:01 AM on 23rd January 2017 until 11:59 PM on 30th April 2017 or when those works have been completed, whichever is the sooner. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.

Dated this 10th day of January 2017

Mufu Durowoju

Network Impact Management Team - Manager,  
Road Space Management - Operations

Transport for London

Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

MAYOR OF LONDON



TRANSPORT  
FOR LONDON

## Transport for London Notice

### ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE A3220 GLA ROAD (ADDISON ROAD, ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA) (TEMPORARY BANNED TURN) ORDER 2017

1. Transport for London hereby gives notice that it has made the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
2. The purpose of the Order is to enable district meter repair works to take place on A3220 Warwick Gardens.
3. The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle from turning right from Addison Road into Kensington High Street. The Order will be effective at certain times from 10:00 AM on the 13th January 2017 until 4:00 PM on the 15th January 2017 or when the works have been completed, whichever is sooner. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.
4. The prohibition will not apply in respect of:
  - (1) any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
  - (2) anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.
5. At such times as the prohibition is in force an alternative route will be indicated by traffic signs via Warwick Gardens, Cromwell Crescent, West Cromwell Road and Warwick Road to normal route of travel.

Dated this 10th day of January 2017

Mufu Durowoju

Network Impact Management Team - Manager,  
Road Space Management - Operations Transport for London  
Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

MAYOR OF LONDON



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# Public Notices

## IRIS FLORENCE ASHFIELD (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 113B Holland Road, London W14 8AS, who died on 29/06/2016, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 11/03/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Philip Philippou and Rodney Emmott, 18-22 WIGMORE STREET, LONDON W1U 2RG.  
Ref: DND/P1418/01

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## LICENSING ACT 2003 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF PREMISES LICENCE

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT **Bento Lounge Ltd** has applied to Kensington & Chelsea Borough Council on 21st December 2016 to vary the premises licence at Ritorio, 442 King's Road, London, SW10 0LQ so as to extend the terminal hour for the Sale of Alcohol and Late Night Refreshment to 00:00 Monday to Saturday, as more particularly set out in the application. Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing to: **Licensing Department, 37 Pembroke Road, London, W8 6PW** to be received by no later than 18th January 2017 stating the grounds for making said representation.

A record of the application can be inspected on the Council's website [www.rbc.gov.uk](http://www.rbc.gov.uk) or at the above address during office hours. The register can be viewed at the above address during office hours.

It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for a premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5,000.

Thomas & Thomas Partners LLP  
38a Monmouth Street,  
London WC2H 9EP  
[www.tandp.com](http://www.tandp.com)

## LICENSING ACT 2003 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF PREMISES LICENCE

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT The Chelsea Food & Wine Company Ltd has applied to Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea on 21 December 2016 to vary the premises licence at Best One, 216-218 Earl's Court Road, London, SW5 9GB so as to extend the permitted terminal hour for the sale of alcohol until 02:00 Monday to Sunday and remove condition 21, as more particularly set out in the application. Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing to: **Licensing Team, Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, 37 Pembroke Road, London W8 6PW** to be received by no later than 19 January 2017 stating the grounds for making said representation.

A record of the application can be inspected on the Council's website [www.rbc.gov.uk](http://www.rbc.gov.uk) or at the above address during office hours. The register can be viewed at the above address during office hours.

It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for a premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5,000.

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## LICENSING ACT 2003 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF PREMISES LICENCE

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT Rock E Limited has applied to Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea on 21 December 2016 to vary the premises licence at Dirty Bones, 20 Kensington Church Street, London, W8 4EP so as to alter the layout of the premises, including changes to kitchen layout, removal of bar counter at the rear of premises, change to design of bar counter at the front of premises, removal of some fixed banquet seating, replacement of 2 x WCs with a store room, and addition of 1 x WC to left side of premises, as more particularly set out in the application and plans lodged with the Council. Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing to: **Licensing Team, Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, 37 Pembroke Road, London, W8 6PW** to be received by no later than 30 January 2017 stating the grounds for making said representation.

A record of the application can be inspected on the Council's website [www.rbc.gov.uk](http://www.rbc.gov.uk) or at the above address during office hours. The register can be viewed at the above address during office hours.

It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for a premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5,000.

Thomas & Thomas Partners LLP  
38a Monmouth Street,  
London WC2H 9EP  
[www.tandp.com](http://www.tandp.com)

## LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1) (WOOD LANE)

### TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate development works to be carried out in the above named road; it made an Order the effect of which would suspend a cycle lane and close sections of Wood Lane and the Access Road to Nos. 54 and 56 Wood Lane.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the southbound cycle lane between the Access Road to Nos. 54 and 56 Wood Lane will be suspended.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the southbound cycle lane between the Access Road to Nos. 54 and 56 Wood Lane will be suspended.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to stop, wait, load or unload in the Access Road to Nos. 54 and 56 Wood Lane.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 3 would be required.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order will come into operation on the 5th January 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works will commence on Thursday 5th January 2017 and last for approximately 12 months. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 4th day of January 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle  
Chief Transport Planner  
Transport and Highways

## LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1) (HARWOOD TERRACE)

### TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Gas connection works to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Harwood Terrace between its junction with Waterford Road and No. 19 Harwood Terrace.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Imperial Road, Bagley's Road, New Kings Road and Waterford Road.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order would come into operation on the 23rd January 2017 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works would be expected to commence on Monday 23rd January 2017 and last for 11 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 5th day of January 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle  
Chief Transport Planner  
Transport and Highways

## LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1) (BLOEMFONTEIN AVENUE)

### TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Gas connection works to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Bloemfontein Avenue at its junction with Bloemfontein Road.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Bloemfontein Road and Ellersie Road.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order would come into operation on the 30th January 2017 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works would be expected to commence on Monday 30th January 2017 and last for 4 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 5th day of January 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle  
Chief Transport Planner  
Transport and Highways

## LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1) (NASCOT STREET)

### TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Gas connection works to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Nascot Street.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Wood Lane, Caverswall Street, Eymham Road and Glenroy Street
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order would come into operation on the 30th January 2017 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works would be expected to commence on Monday 30th January 2017 and last for 4 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 5th day of January 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle  
Chief Transport Planner  
Transport and Highways

## LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1) (EDITH ROAD)

### TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility installation works to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Edith Road at its junction with Hammersmith Road.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Hammersmith Road, Holland Road, Addison Crescent, Addison Road and Hammersmith Road
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order would come into operation on the Monday 6th February 2017 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works would be expected to commence on Monday 6th February 2017 and last for 3 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 5th day of January 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle  
Chief Transport Planner  
Transport and Highways



Local Planning Applications  
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS  
AND CONSERVATION AREAS)  
ACT 1990

I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:  
**FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA**  
**31 Hilary Road London W12 0QB**

**2016/05505/FUL**  
Replacement of existing windows with new double glazed timber framed windows to the front and side elevations.  
**39 Peterborough Road London SW6 3BT** **2016/05477/FUL**  
Erection of a front roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; and excavation of the front garden to enlarge the existing front lightwell, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.

**39 Peterborough Road London SW6 3BT** **2016/05478/FUL**  
Erection of a front roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level on top of the existing back addition; and excavation of the front garden to enlarge the existing front lightwell, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.  
**32 Black Lion Lane London W6 9BE** **2016/05194/FUL**

Erection of a rear extension at first floor level, over part of the existing back addition; and installation of new folding doors to replace the existing windows and doors to the rear elevation at ground floor level.  
**Flat D 587 King's Road London SW6 2EB** **2016/05349/FUL**

Erection of metal balustrades around the flat roof at second floor level to the rear elevation in connection with its use as a terrace.  
**Maisonette Basement And Ground Floor 14 Brackenbury Road London W6 0BA** **2016/05354/FUL**

Excavation under the footprint of the building to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement.  
**1A Richford Street London W6 7HJ** **2016/05420/FUL**

Erection of an additional floor at roof level; raising of the front parapet wall at roof level to the rear elevation; connection with its use as a terrace; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition; installation of two new windows in the side elevation at first floor level and two new windows in the rear elevation at first floor level.  
**Flat 16 Lanark Mansions Pennard Road London W12 8DT** **2016/05365/VAR**

Removal of condition 9 (cycle parking spaces) of planning permission ref: 2015/05828/FUL granted 12th February 2016.

**37 Peterborough Road London SW6 3BT** **2016/05479/FUL**  
Erection of a front and rear roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height by 250mm; and a rear extension at second floor level, on top of the first floor back addition; erection of a rear side infill extension at first floor level; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing building; and excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.

**3 And 4 Charlotte Mews London W4 0QH** **2016/05353/VAR**  
Variation of condition 9 of planning permission ref: 2012/01343/FUL granted 25th July 2012 to allow the installation of glass balustrades in place of the metal grilles around the perimeter of the front lightwell.

**Flat A, 32 Vereker Road London W14 9JS** **2016/05386/FUL**  
Replacement of existing roof with a new raised dual pitched roof together with the installation of rooflights; further excavation and enlargement of the existing basement; and installation of a lightwell; installation of a new entrance door and glazing to replace the existing fronting the street elevation; associated external alterations.

**24 Cheryl's Close London SW6 2AX** **2016/05424/FUL**  
Erection of a single storey rear extension; conversion of the existing garage to the front at ground floor level into a habitable room; replacement of the garage door to the front elevation at ground floor level with 2no. windows; and installation of a Juliet balcony at first floor level replacing existing window.

**Advertising Hoardings To The North And South Of Talgarth Road London** **2016/04699/ADV**  
Display of 2 x double sided internally illuminated full motion LED advertising panels measuring (7.8m x 5.3m x 0.6m) to replace the existing screens and associated landscaping (amended description).  
**33 Doneraille Street London SW6 6EW** **2016/05357/FUL**

Erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey side infill extension including the demolition and re-building of the single storey side basement; increasing the height of the side boundary wall.

**648 King's Road London SW6 2DU** **2016/05358/ADV**  
Display of 1no externally illuminated fascia sign fronting Britannia Road, King's Road and Waterford Road elevation.  
**Broadway Mansions Effie Road London SW6 1EL** **2016/05359/VAR**

Removal of condition 3 of planning application ref: 2015/02157/FUL of which the applicant has been granted (APP/H5390/W/15/3133658) granted

23rd February 2016 to allow the occupiers of the flats to apply for street parking permits.

**Adjacent To Cairns House 291 Wandsworth Bridge Road London** **2016/04701/ADV**  
Display of a freestanding single sided digitally illuminated LED screen measuring 6m (height) x 4m (width) x 0.73m (depth) fronting Wandsworth Bridge Road with associated landscaping at the base.

**424 And 426 Fulham Palace Road London SW6 6HX** **2016/05338/FUL**  
Erection of a rear extension at second floor level including the installation of a door and a Juliet balcony to No. 426; installation of 3no. rooflights in the front roofslope to No. 426; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; and installation of a rooflight to the side roofslope of the back addition at second floor level of No. 426; installation of French doors and a Juliet balcony to replace existing to the rear elevation at first floor level of No. 426; and installation of a single storey rear extension to the side and rear of the existing back addition to No.424; installation of an external staircase to the rear elevation from first floor to ground floor level to No.s 424 and 426; and replacement of all windows to the front, rear and side elevations to No.3 424 and 426.

**37 Alderville Road London SW6 3RP** **2016/05486/FUL**  
Erection of a front roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition; replace existing window in rear roof extension with new timber sash window; erection of a single storey rear extension and installation of new double glazed doors.

**Flat D Second Floor 128 Sinclair Road London W14 0NL** **2016/05436/FUL**  
Erection of an additional floor at roof level; erection of glass screening around flat roof at roof level in connection with its use as a terrace; replace two existing windows in the rear elevation at second floor level with one new triple hung timber sash window.

**Flat A 50 Lillie Road London SW6 1TN** **2016/05322/FUL**  
Conversion of first, second and third floor level of a 2 x studio and 1 x one bedroom self-contained flats.  
**48 Ongar Road London SW6 1SJ** **2016/05350/VAR**

Variation of wording of condition 5 of planning permission ref: 2015/04566/FUL granted 12th February 2016 to allow the party wall in between no. 48 and 50 to be no greater than 580mm in front of the roof top extension and no greater than 250mm above the roof line of the extension, other than extending chimney pots and terminating roofline.

**Land To The South Of Hammersmith Flyover Fulham Palace Road London** **2016/04702/ADV**  
Display of a free standing single sided digitally illuminated LED screen measuring 6m (height) x 4m (width).  
**74 Ellerby Street London SW6 6EZ** **2016/05408/FUL**

Erection of front and rear roof extensions to replace existing; enlargement of existing rooflight on the flat roof of the existing building; and installation of an infill extension at second floor level on top of the existing back addition; and excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.  
**220 Uxbridge Road London W12 7JD** **2016/05533/ADV**

Display of 1no. internally illuminated fascia sign and 1no. internally illuminated projecting sign to the front elevation.  
**Site Of Former Parsons Green Club Broomhouse Lane London** **2016/05476/FUL**

Retention of 3no Portakabin buildings to be used as a temporary club house facility for a period of 2 years by Parsons Green Sports & Social Club Limited during the construction of the new club house.  
**Fulham Primary School Halford Road London SW6 1JU** **2016/05484/FR3**

Replacement of existing single glazed windows and doors with new timber double glazed windows and doors.  
**63 Munster Road London SW6 5RE** **2016/05511/FUL**  
Demolition of the existing building, erection of a part one, part three storey building; and installation of a rear extension to provide 2 x one bedroom and 2 x two bedroom self-contained flats; formation of balconies and a roof terrace at first floor level; erection of an external staircase from basement to ground floor level; associated landscaping.

**13 Fulham Park Gardens London SW6 4JX** **2016/05518/FUL**  
Erection of two storey rear extensions at basement and ground floor level; erection of a rear extension at upper ground floor level; erection of an external staircase from basement to ground floor level at the rear of the property; alterations and installation of new doors and windows to front lightwell; formation of side lightwells; conversion of the ground floor level to provide 1 x two bedroom and 1 x three bedroom self-contained flats.

**1 Beadon Road London W6 0EA** **2016/05519/FUL**  
Installation of 3no antennas and 3no transmission dishes on the roof of freestanding frames with support poles; installation of 1no equipment cabinet set on freestanding plinth and ancillary works thereto.  
**2, 6 Fulham Broadway London SW6 4JL** **2016/05520/FUL**

Installation of 3no antennas and 3no

transmission dishes mounted on freestanding frames with support poles; installation of 1no equipment cabinet set on freestanding plinth and ancillary works thereto.

**30 Melrose Gardens London W6 TFW** **2016/05523/FUL**  
Erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; installation of 2no long strip windows covering ground, first and second floor level to the side elevation.

**553 Fulham Road London W6 9JL** **2016/05464/FUL**  
Erection of an additional floor at fourth floor level in connection with the creation of 1 x one bedroom self-contained flat following partial demolition of the water tank room.

**The Pier Centre 50 Carnwath Road London SW6 3EQ** **2016/05467/FUL**

Installation of 3no fixed shut windows and 2no operable vents to the northern elevation of the building at first floor level.

**30 Melrose Gardens London W6 TRW** **2016/05310/FUL**  
Erection of a rear and side dormer roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height of the main roof by 400mm; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roofslope.

**1 Charleville Road London W14 9JL** **2016/05444/ADV**  
Display of 2no externally illuminated fascia signs fronting Charleville Road elevation; display 2no externally illuminated fascia signs on the 1no internally illuminated projecting sign fronting North End Road elevation; display of 1no externally illuminated fascia sign above the main entrance of the premises.

**66A Paddenswick Road London W6 0UB** **2016/05442/FUL**  
Installation of a new shopfront; alterations to the existing external staircase to the front elevation; alterations to partially lower the front boundary wall.

**43 New King's Road London SW6 4SD** **2016/04906/FUL**  
Replacement of single glazed sash windows on the front elevation at ground and first floor level with new double glazed box sash windows; and replacement of tiles to front steps and front yard area.

**Flat D 17 Avonmore Road London W14 8RP** **2016/03768/FUL**  
Erection of an additional floor at roof level.

**106A Townmead Road London SW6 2SG** **2016/05423/FUL**  
Erection of a rear roof extension, involving an increase in the ridge height by 300mm; installation of 3no. rooflights in the front roofslope; removal of part of the pitched roof of the back addition at second floor level to form a roof terrace enclosed by a 1.7m high obscured glazed balustrade; and installation of French doors to the rear elevation at second floor level in order to provide access to the roof terrace.

**Flat Second Floor 4 Sinclair Gardens London W14 0AT** **2016/05331/FUL**  
Replacement of existing windows with new windows at second floor level to the front elevation.

**Outside Walham Green Court Waterford Road London** **2016/04700/ADV**  
Display of a free standing single sided digitally illuminated LED screen measuring 6m (height) x 3m (width) x 0.74m (depth) fronting Fulham Road (amended description).

**42 Broughton Road London SW6 2LA** **2016/05507/FUL**  
Erection of a rear roof extension including raising the ridge by 300mm; installation of three rooflights into front roof slope; erection of a rear extension at second floor level on top of existing back addition; replace existing window and door to rear elevation at first floor level with French doors and railings; replacement of the pitched roof to the existing side extension at ground floor level with a flat roof; replace existing window and door to rear elevation at first floor level with French doors and railings.

**Fulham Palace Garden Centre & The Old Lodge Bishop's Avenue London SW6 6EE** **2016/05557/FUL**  
Replacement of trees and fencing on the boundary wall of the garden centre and The Old Lodge with 800mm high new painted hardwood trellises and boarding at low level.

**Fulham Palace Garden Centre Bishop's Avenue London SW6 6EE** **2016/05554/FUL**  
Erection of 600mm softwood trellis on top of the existing boundary wall on the Fulham Palace Road elevation.

**Brook Green Hotel 170 Shepherd's Bush Road London W6 7PB** **2016/05422/ADV**  
Display of two externally illuminated fascia signs; display of one no illuminated fascia sign above entrance door; display of one externally illuminated projecting sign; display of externally illuminated lettering and Halo ram logo and on the side elevation.

**St Martins House 1 Lyric Square London W6 0NB** **2016/05385/FUL**  
Alterations to the external fenestration of the building; removal of existing redundant plant and installation of new plant to the roof together with green roof; internal reconfiguration to include the provision of additional cycle storage; external landscaping to the terrace; associated external alterations.

**222 Shepherd's Bush Road London W6 7NL** **2016/05578/ADV**  
Display of 3no internally illuminated fascia signs, 1no double sided internally illuminated projecting sign, 1no. non-illuminated projecting sign and 1no. non-illuminated fascia sign at the front elevation.

**1 Charleville Road London W14 9JL** **2016/05443/FUL**  
Alterations to the existing shopfront to include the installation of 2no outdoor heaters, 2no retractable awnings fronting Charleville Road and North End Road elevations; installation of 2no external lights and a retractable awning to the front entrance of the property; use of part of the public highway for the placing of 6no tables and 12no chairs.

**Flat Basement And Ground Floors 32 Edith Road London W14 9BB** **2016/05454/FUL**  
Erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; installation of a new door to replace the existing window in front of the plant roof at lower ground floor level to the rear of the property; installation of a door to replace the existing window and the formation of a roof terrace at upper ground floor level to the rear elevation; installation of new doors at lower ground floor level to the rear elevation.

**67 Filmer Road London SW6 7JF** **2016/05435/FUL**  
Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 2no rooflights into front roof slope; erection of a single storey rear extension at ground floor level; installation of new doors to replace the existing door and windows at ground floor level to the rear elevation; replacement of existing timber windows to the front elevation elevation at ground and first floor level and replacement of existing windows at first floor level to the rear elevation with double glazed timber windows.

**37 Alderville Road London SW6 3RP** **2016/05485/FUL**  
Erection of a front roof extension.  
**Flat First Floor Salisbury Via Carthew Road London W6 0DX** **2016/05410/FUL**

Erection of a rear roof extension including the formation of a hip to gable roof extension; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roofslope and 2no rooflights above the main flat roof at roof level.

**22 Valliere Road London NW10 6AJ** **2016/05416/VAR**  
Variation of condition 8, 9, 10 of planning permission ref: 2016/00125/FUL granted 21st march 2016 to allow the transfer of parking permit from the ground floor flat to first second floor.

**6 North End Crescent London W14 8TQ** **2016/04366/FUL**  
Erection of a rear roof extension (Amended description).

**72 Harwood Road London W6 9P** **2016/05417/FUL**  
Erection of an additional floor at roof level.

**14 Ashchurch Terrace London W12 9SL** **2016/05466/FUL**  
Erection of rear extensions at ground and first floor level involving partial demolition of the ground floor extension; erection of privacy screens and the installation of a door at third floor level in connection with the use of the second floor flat roof as a terrace; alterations to the rear fenestration and the roofs of ground, first and second floor.

**12 Yew Tree Road London W12 0TJ** **2016/05475/FUL**  
Retention of replacement roof tiles, felt and battens together with guttering and down pipes.

**45 Coningham Road London W12 8BS** **2016/04934/FUL**  
Replacement of existing single glazed windows with new double glazed windows at the front and rear elevations and retention of 1no window at lower ground and upper ground floor level to the rear elevation.

**55 Coningham Road London W12 8BS** **2016/04935/FUL**  
Replacement of existing single glazed windows with new double glazed windows at the front and rear elevations.

**135 King Street London W6 9JG** **2016/05598/FUL**  
Use of part of the public highway for the placing of 4no tables, 16no chairs, 5no barriers with screen holders to King Street elevation.

**St Pauls Girls' School Brook Green London W6 7DB** **2016/05024/VAR**  
Variation of condition 2 of planning permission Ref.2015/02035/FUL granted 13th May 2016 to substitute the approved drawings and allow minor material amendments to the development including alterations to the elevations and floor plans of the new senior school building at the southern end of the site.

**St Paul's Girls' School Playing Fields And Pavilion Bute Gardens London W6 7DP** **2016/05024/VAR**  
Variation of condition 2 of planning permission Ref.2015/02037/FUL granted 13th May 2016 to substitute the approved drawings and allow minor material amendments to the development including alterations to the elevations and floor plans of the new senior school building at the southern end of the site.

**14 Donardo Close London W12 7FN** **2016/05320/FUL**  
Change of use from Use Class B1 to Sui Generis use comprising of educational uses, including teaching and studio space, fabrication workshops, offices, computer labs and associated works.

**33 Rylett Road London W12 9ST** **2016/05292/FUL**  
Erection of a dormer window on the existing rear roof slope; installation of 1no. rooflight in the front roofslope and 1no. rooflight in the side roofslope; and erection of a new roof at first floor level on top of the existing back addition;

and erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition, replacing existing single storey rear extension.

**50 Hartwood Road London W12 9NF** **2016/05339/FUL**  
Erection of a gable end extension to enlarge an existing dormer window to the front entrance of the property; use of an enlarged dormer window to replace the existing dormer window in the rear roofslope; and installation of an additional rooflight to the front roofslope.

**29 Fulham Park Gardens London SW6 4JX** **2016/05430/FUL**  
Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 3no. rooflights in the front roofslope; erection of a single storey rear extension; excavation of part of the rear garden to form a lightwell, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.

**23 Emlyn Road London W12 9TF** **2016/05439/FUL**  
Erection of a rear roof extension including the formation of a hip to gable roof extension; installation of 2no. rooflights in the front roofslope to replace 3no. existing rooflights; and installation of a new obscured glazed window to the side of the gable wall elevation.

**23 Emlyn Road London W12 9TF** **2016/05440/FUL**  
Removal of existing front entrance porch and replacement with a new timber flat roof canopy; replacement of all existing windows to the front elevation with new white timber windows; and formation of handstanding in the front garden to provide off street parking provision for one vehicle.

**FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK) FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT**  
**32 Black Lion Lane London W6 9BE** **2016/05195/LBC**  
Erection of a rear extension at first floor level, over part of the existing back addition; and installation of new folding doors to replace the existing windows and doors to the rear elevation at ground floor level.

**St Mary's Cemetery Harrow Road London** **2016/04723/LBC**  
Restoration works to the Campbell and De Missa mausoleums.

**Olympia Exhibition Centre Hammersmith Road London W14 8UX** **2016/05341/LBC**  
Refurbishment of existing cafe bar including the partial removal of existing plasterboard walls; installation of new server counters, floor finishes, lighting, remodelling of the ground floor layout and associated internal alterations.

**St Pauls Girls School Brook Green London W6 7BS** **2016/05023/LBC**  
Application under Section 19 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 to vary condition 2 of listed building consent Ref.2015/02036/LBC granted 13th May 2016 to allow amendments to the development including alterations to the elevations and floor plans of the new senior school building at the southern end of the site.

**FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING**  
**32 Black Lion Lane London W6 9BE** **2016/05194/FUL**

Erection of a rear extension at first floor level, over part of the existing back addition; and installation of new folding doors to replace the existing windows and doors to the rear elevation at ground floor level.

**Advertising Hoardings To The North And South Of Talgarth Road London** **2016/04699/ADV**  
Display of 2 x double sided internally illuminated full motion LED advertising panels measuring (7.8m x 5.3m x 0.6m) to replace the existing screens and associated landscaping (amended description).

**691 Fulham Road London SW6 5UJ** **2016/05395/FUL**  
Erection of a rear roof extension including the formation of a hip to gable roof extension; installation of 1no rooflight in the front roofslope.

**Land To The South Of Hammersmith Flyover Fulham Palace Road London** **2016/04702/ADV**  
Display of a free standing single sided digitally illuminated LED screen measuring 6m (height) x 4m (width).

**1 Beadon Road London W6 0EA** **2016/05519/FUL**  
Installation of 3no antennas and 3no transmission dishes mounted on freestanding frames with support poles; installation of 1no equipment cabinet set on freestanding plinth and ancillary works thereto.

**Outside Walham Green Court Waterford Road London** **2016/04700/ADV**  
Display of a free standing single sided digitally illuminated LED screen measuring 6m (height) x 3m (width) x 0.74m (depth) fronting Fulham Road (amended description).

**775 Fulham Road London SW6 5HA** **2016/05027/ADV**  
Display of a backlit halo illuminated lettering signage at the front elevation.

**67 Filmer Road London SW6 7JF** **2016/05435/FUL**  
Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 2no rooflights into front roof slope; erection of a single storey rear extension at ground floor level; replacement of existing windows to replace the existing door and windows at ground floor level to the rear elevation; replacement of existing timber windows to the front elevation elevation at ground and first floor level and replacement of existing windows at first floor level to the rear elevation with double glazed timber windows.

**St Pauls Girls School Brook Green London W6 7DB** **2016/05024/VAR**  
Variation of condition 2 of planning permission Ref.2015/02035/FUL granted 13th May 2016 to substitute the approved drawings and allow minor material amendments to the development including alterations to the elevations and floor plans of the new senior school building at the southern end of the site.

**St Paul's Girls' School Playing Fields And Pavilion Bute Gardens London W6 7DP** **2016/05024/VAR**  
Variation of condition 2 of planning permission Ref.2015/02037/FUL granted 13th May 2016 to substitute the approved drawings and allow minor material amendments to the development including alterations to the elevations and floor plans of the replacement pavilion building in the south eastern corner of the site and the replacement maintenance and storage structures along the southern site boundary.

**29 Fulham Park Gardens London SW6 4JX** **2016/05430/FUL**  
Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 3no. rooflights in the front roofslope; erection of a single storey rear extension; excavation of part of the rear garden to form a lightwell, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 31st January 2017. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

**THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT) PROCEDURE ORDER 2013 NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13**  
**Esquires Coffee House West 12 Shopping Centre Shepherd's Bush Green London W12 8PH** **2016/05295/FUL**

I give notice that Mr Paolo Ratti is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Use of part of the public highway for the placing of 8no tables and 16no chairs.

**101 Greyhound Road London W6 8NJ** **2016/05403/FUL**  
I give notice that Mr Paolo Ratti is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of an additional floor at roof level; erection of a three storey front extension at ground, first and second floor levels; erection of a single storey rear extension; erection of new front boundary wall; conversion of the existing building into 3 x two bedroom and 1 x one bedroom self-contained flats.

**29 Hetley Road London W12 8BA** **2016/05336/FUL**  
I give notice that Mr Paul Clarke is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of a rear roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height by 200mm; erection of a two storey rear extension at second floor level; installation of 4no rooflights in the front roofslope; installation of 2no windows at first floor level, 1no window and 1no door at ground floor level at the rear elevation to replace the existing windows; erection of an external staircase from basement to ground floor level to the rear elevation; conversion of ground, first and second floor level to provide 2 x two bedroom and 1 x one bedroom self-contained flats.

**61-76 Willow Vale Road London W12 0BP** **2016/05455/FUL**  
I give notice that Willow Vale Innovations Ltd is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Demolition of existing building comprised of West Workshop and 2 garages, erection of a part two and part three storey building with roof terrace at second floor level to provide 1 x one bedroom and 1 x two bedroom self-contained flats; installation of new metal gates, bin store and the erection of a new boundary wall to the front elevation. Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 31st January 2017. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

Signed: **NIGEL PALACE**  
*Executive Director for Transport and Technical Services on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL*

You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website: [www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning](http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning). Click on the "Planning Online" logo on the Planning Home Page.

You can also E-mail comments to: [planning@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:planning@lbhf.gov.uk). You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office **RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6** between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to: **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICES ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU** by the date shown above. Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly.

For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 8753 1081** or **020 8753 1082**.

[lbhf.gov.uk/planning](http://lbhf.gov.uk/planning)  
Online

Send us your comments about planning applications via our website: [www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning](http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning)



## PUBLIC NOTICE LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM DESIGNATION OF AN AREA FOR ADDITIONAL LICENSING OF HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMOs)

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** in accordance with Section 59 Housing Act 2004 (Notification Requirements Relating to Designation) that the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham acting as local housing authority in exercise of its powers under Section 56 of the Housing Act 2004 ("the Act") has designated for additional licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation ("HMOs") the area described in paragraph 4.

### CITATION, COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION

1. This designation may be cited as the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Designation for an Area for Additional Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation 2016.
2. This designation is made on **13 December 2016** and shall come into force on **5 June 2017**.
3. This designation shall cease to have effect on **4 June 2022** or earlier if the Council revokes the scheme under section 60 of the Act.

### AREA TO WHICH THE DESIGNATION APPLIES

4. The designation shall apply to the whole area of the district of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

### APPLICATION OF THE DESIGNATION

5. This designation applies to all HMOs as defined by section 254 of the Housing Act 2004 that are occupied by 3 or more persons comprising 2 or more households, within the area described in paragraph 4 unless -
  - a) the building is of a description specified in Annex A (Buildings that are not HMOs for the purpose of the Act - other than Part 1);
  - b) the HMO is subject to an Interim or Final Management Order under Part 4 of the Act;
  - c) the HMO is subject to a temporary exemption under section 86 of the Act; or
  - d) the HMO is required to be licensed under section 55 (2) (a) of the Act (mandatory licensing).

### EFFECT OF THE DESIGNATION

6. Subject to sub paragraphs 5(a) to (d) above, every HMO of the description specified in that paragraph in the area specified in paragraph 4 shall be required to be licensed under section 61 of the Act.
- The designation was given general approval by the Executive Member for Housing under a delegated authority from the Executive of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Council. The designation falls within a description of designations in relation to which the Secretary of State has given a general approval under section 58 of the Housing Act 2004, namely The Housing Act 2004: Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation and Selective Licensing of Other Residential Accommodation (England) General Approval 2015 which came into force on the 1st April 2015.

A person having control of or managing a prescribed HMO must apply to the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham for a licence.

### INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS/APPLICATION FOR LICENCE

7. Any landlord, managing agent or other person managing a HMO or any tenant within the Borough may inspect the designation, apply for a licence or seek further information or advice as to whether their property is affected by the designation from:

**Private Housing, Environmental Health, London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Town Hall, King Street Hammersmith, London W6 9JU**  
**Email: phs@lbhf.gov.uk Tel: 020 8753 1221**

### ENFORCEMENT

8. Upon the Designation coming into force on **5 June 2017** any person who fails to apply for a licence in the designated area shall be guilty of an offence under Section 72(1) of the Act, and shall be liable to prosecution and liable to an unlimited fine. In addition, they may be required to repay up to 12 months' rent if the tenant or the Council, in the case of housing benefit payments, apply to the Residential Property Tribunal under the provisions of section 73 and section 74 of the Housing Act 2004 for a rent repayment order.

Annex A: Buildings that are not HMOs for the purpose of the Act- other than Part 1 4

### Buildings controlled or managed by public sector bodies etc 5

1. A building where the person managing or having control of it is 6
  - (a) a local housing authority
  - (aa) a non-profit registered provider of social housing
  - (b) a police and crime commissioner under section 1 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 or the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime under section 3 of the same Act.
  - (c) a fire and rescue authority under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004
  - (d) a health service body within the meaning of section 9 of the National Health Service Act 2006
  - (e) a body which is registered as a social landlord under Part 1 of the Housing Act 1996.
  - (f) a profit-making registered provider of social housing where it is social housing within the meaning of Part 2 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 7

### Buildings controlled or managed by a co-operative society 8

2. A building where -
  - (a) the person managing or having control of it is a co-operative society whose rules are such as to secure that each of the conditions set out below is met, and
  - (b) no person who occupies premises in the building does so by virtue of an assured tenancy, a secure tenancy or a protected tenancy 9

The conditions are—

  - (a) that membership of the society is restricted to persons who are occupiers or prospective occupiers of buildings managed or controlled by the society,
  - (b) that all management decisions of the society are made by the members (or a specified quorum of members) at a general meeting which all members are entitled to, and invited to, attend,
  - (c) that each member has equal voting rights at such a meeting, and
  - (d) that, if a person occupies premises in the building and is not a member, that person is an occupier of the premises only as a result of sharing occupation of them with a member at the member's invitation.

For these purposes "co-operative society" means a body that-

- (a) is registered as a co-operative society under the 2014 Act, or is a pre-commencement society (within the meaning of that Act) that meets the condition in section 2(2)(a)(i) of that Act, and is neither-
  - (i) a non-profit registered provider of social housing, nor
  - (ii) registered as a social landlord under Part 1 of the Housing Act 1996.
- 4 Schedule 14 of the Act and SI 2006/373  
5 Paragraph 2 of schedule 14.  
6 For the definition of "person managing" and "person having control" see section 263 of the Act.  
7 Paragraph 2A of Schedule 14.  
8 Paragraph 2B of Schedule 14.  
9 "assured tenancy" has the same meaning as in Part 1 of the Housing Act 1988; "protected tenancy" has the same meaning as in the Rent Act 1977; "secure tenancy" has the same meaning as in Part 4 of the Housing Act 1985.  
10 the 2014 Act" means the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014.

### Buildings regulated by other enactments 11

3. A tenancy, licence or occupation of a house which is regulated under the following enactments:

- (a) sections 87 to 87D of the Children Act 1989
- (b) section 43 (4) of the Prison Act 1952
- (c) section 34 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002
- (d) The Secure Training Centre Rules 1998 12
- (e) The Prison Rules 1999 13
- (f) The Young Offender Institute Rules 2000 14
- (g) The Detention Centre Rules 2001 15
- (h) The Criminal Justice and Court Service Act 2000 (Approved Premises) Regulations 2001 16
- (i) The Care Homes Regulations 2001 17
- (j) The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 18
- (k) The Residential Family Centres Regulations 2002 19

### Certain student lettings etc 20

4. A building —
  - (i) which is managed or controlled by a specified educational establishment or is of a specified description of such establishments and
  - (ii) the occupiers of the house or dwelling are undertaking a full time course of further or higher education at the specified establishment 21 and
  - (iii) the house or dwelling is being managed in conformity with an Approved Code of Practice for the management of exempted accommodation under section 233 of the Act. 22

### Religious communities 23

5. A building which is occupied principally for the purpose of a religious community whose principal occupation is prayer, contemplation, education or the relief of suffering except if the building is a converted block of flats to which section 257 of the Act applies.

### Buildings occupied by owners 24

6. A building which is only occupied by —
  - (i) one or more persons who hold the freehold or a leasehold interest granted for a term of more than 21 years of the whole, or any part of, the building
  - (ii) and/or any member of the household 25 of that person or persons but this exemption does not apply to a converted block of flats to which section 257 of the Act applies, except for ascertaining the status of any flat within the block.

### Buildings occupied by resident landlord etc 26

7. A building which is occupied by a person or persons to whom paragraph 6 applies (subject to the proviso therein) and no more than two 27 other persons, not forming part of the owner's household.

### Buildings occupied by two persons 28

8. Any building which is only occupied by two persons (forming two households)

### Meaning of "building"

9. In this annex a "building" includes a part of the building 29
  - 11 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 14.
  - 12 SI 1998/472 as amended by 2003/3005
  - 13 SI 1999/728 as amended by SI 2000/1794, SI 2000/2641, SI 2001/1149, SI 2002/2116, SI 2002/3135, SI 2003/3301 and 2005/869
  - 14 SI 2000/3371 as amended by SI 2002/2117, SI 2002/3135 and 2005/897
  - 15 SI 2001/238 NB Section 66(4) of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 provides that the reference to a detention centre is to be construed as a reference to a removal centre as defined in Part VIII of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
  - 16 SI 2001/850
  - 17 2001/3965 as amended by SI 2002/865, SI 2003/534, SI 2003/1590, SI 2003/1703, SI 2003/1845, s2004/664, SI 2004/696, 2004/1770, 2004/2071 and 2004/3168
  - 18 SI 2015/541
  - 19 sa 2002/3213 as amended by S12004/664, 2004/865 and 2004/3168
  - 20 Paragraph 4 of Schedule 14
  - 21 Houses in Multiple Occupation (Specified Educational Establishments) (England) Regulations 2013/1601
  - 22 Housing (Codes of Management Practice) (Student Accommodation) (England) Order 2010/2615
  - 23 Paragraph 1 of Schedule 14
  - 24 Paragraph 6 of Schedule 14
  - 25 For the definition of "household" see section 258 (2) and paragraphs 3 and 4 of SI 373/2006
  - 26 Paragraph 6 of Schedule 14

## PUBLIC NOTICE LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM DESIGNATION OF AN AREA FOR SELECTIVE LICENSING 2016 Section 80, Housing Act 2004

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** in accordance with Section 83 Housing Act 2004 (Notification Requirements Relating to Designation) that the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham acting as local housing authority in exercise of its powers under Section 80 of the Housing Act 2004 has designated the area described in paragraph 4 for selective licensing.

### CITATION, COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION

1. This designation may be cited as the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Designation for an Area for Selective Licensing 2016.
2. This designation is made on **13 December 2016** and shall come into force on **5 June 2017**.
3. This designation shall cease to have effect on **4 June 2022** or earlier if the Council revokes the scheme under section 84 of the Act.

### AREA TO WHICH THE DESIGNATION APPLIES

4. The designation applies to the following streets as listed at Annex A.

### APPLICATION OF THE DESIGNATION

5. This designation applies to any house which is let or occupied under a tenancy or licence within the area described in paragraph 4 unless:
  - a) the house is a house in multiple occupation and is required to be licensed under Part 2 of the Act;
  - b) the tenancy or licence of the house has been granted by a registered social landlord;
  - c) the house is subject to an Interim or Final Management Order under Part 4 of the Act;
  - d) the house is subject to a temporary exemption under section 86 of the Act; or
  - e) the house is occupied under a tenancy or licence which is exempt under the Act or the occupation is of a building or part of a building so exempt as defined in The Selective Licensing of Houses (Specified Exemptions) (England) Order 2006 SI 370/2006

### EFFECT OF THE DESIGNATION

6. Subject to sub paragraphs 5(a) to (e) every house in the area specified in paragraph 4 that is occupied under a tenancy or licence shall be required to be licensed under section 85 of the Act.

### INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS/APPLICATION FOR LICENCE

7. If you are a landlord, managing agent, or a tenant, and wish to inspect this designation, apply for a licence or require further information, this is available from:

**Private Housing, Environmental Health, London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Town Hall, King Street, Hammersmith London W6 9JU**  
**Email: phs@lbhf.gov.uk Tel: 020 8753 1221**

The designation does not require confirmation by the Secretary of State and falls within a general approval issued by the Secretary of State under Section 82 of the Act, namely the Housing Act 2004: Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation and Selective Licensing of Other Residential Accommodation (England) General Approval 2010.

Any private landlord, property manager or tenant owning, managing or occupying a property within this area is advised to seek advice from the Council's Housing Standards Team by telephone on **020 8753 1221** by email to **phs@lbhf.gov.uk** or in writing to London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Town Hall, King Street, Hammersmith, London W6 9JU to determine whether their property is affected by the designation. Private landlords who own property in the area or any person that controls or manages property in the area will be required from **5 June 2017** to apply for a licence.

### ENFORCEMENT

8. Upon the Designation coming into force on 5 June 2017 any person who operates a licensable property without a licence shall be guilty of an offence under Section 95(1) of the Act. A person who breaches a condition of a licence is liable to prosecution and upon summary conviction liable to an unlimited fine.

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Executive approval 12 December 2016

Annex A: Streets in Hammersmith & Fulham where Selective Licensing applies

Adie Road	Harwood Terrace	St John's Close
Aldensley Road	Hawksmoor Street	Stanwick Road
Armada Road	Hazlitt Mews	Station Approach
Askew Crescent	Hilary Close	Sterne Street
Askew Road	Hoffland Road	Studland Street
Aspenlea Road	Hopgood Street	Sullivan Road
Astrop Mews	Imperial Road	Talgarth Road
Astrop Terrace	Jerdan Place	Tamarisk Square
Augustine Road	Kenmont Gardens	Telephone Place
Barb Mews	Kilmarsh Road	Terrick Street
Basuto Road	King Street	Trevelyan Road
Batoum Gardens	King's Road	Tyrawley Road
Batson Street	Lalor Street	Upper Mall
Beaconsfield Terrace Road	Lamington Street	Uxbridge Road
Beavor Lane	Lanfrey Place	Dalling Road
Bentworth Road	Langford Road	Daves Road
Beryl Road	Larnach Road	Devonport Road
Bishop's Avenue	Leamore Street	Down Place
Bloemfontein Road	Lettice Street	Dunraven Road
Bloemfontein Way	Leyfield Road	Eddiscombe Road
Bothwell Street	Lilac Street	Effie Place
Bramble Gardens	Lime Grove	Effie Road
Britannia Road	Loris Road	Elysium Place
Broomhouse Lane	Lower Mall	Epirus Mews
Bryony Road	Luxemburg Gardens	Ercownald Street
Bulwer Street	Macbeth Street	Fane Street
Byam Street	Macfarlane Road	Farm Lane
Cactus Walk	Mandela Close	Felden Street
Cambria Street	Palliser Road	Fielding Road
Cambridge Grove	Parsons Green	Filmer Road
Cassidy Road	Parsons Green Lane	Firth Gardens
Cathnor Road	Peterborough Mews	Maurice Street
Caverswall Street	Poplar Mews	Meldon Close
Caxton Road	Porten Road	Melina Road
Chancellors Road	Primula Street	Melrose Terrace
Charlow Close	Purcell Crescent	Micklethwaite Road
Clancarty Road	Ravenscourt Avenue	Milson Road
Colehill Lane	Ravenscourt Park	Molesford Road
Commonwealth Avenue	Ravenscourt Place	Moore Park Road
Coningham Mews	Raynham Road	New King's Road
Coulter Road	Redmore Road	Norbroke Street
Crabtree Lane	Reporton Road	Normand Road
Daffodil Street	Rickett Street	North End Crescent
Foxglove Street	Rigault Road	North End Road
Fritthville Gardens	Rockley Road	Old Oak Road
Fulham Broadway	Rosebury Road	Ollgar Close
Fulham High Street	Ryecroft Street	Ormiston Grove
Fulham Park Road	Scrubs Lane	Overstone Road
Fulham Road	Shepherd's Bush Place	Vereker Road
Galloway Road	Shepherd's Bush Road	Wallflower Street
Glenny Street	Sherbrooke Road	Waterford Road
Glenthorne Road	Shortlands	Watermeadow Lane
Goldhawk Mews Goldhawk Road	Snowbury Road	Wells Road
Goodwin Road	South Black Lion Lane	Wood Lane
Gorleston Street	Southcombe Street	Woodlawn Road
Grimston Road	Southerton Road	Woodstock Grove
Gwyn Close	Spring Vale Terrace	Yew Tree Road



Email your sports news, reports and pictures to Tony McDonald at [sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk](mailto:sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk)

# Holloway concedes: we let ourselves down

AFTER much needed back-to-back league victories ended a run of six straight defeats, Queens Park Rangers added to their abysmal record of going out of the FA Cup at the earliest opportunity, *writes Tony McDonald*.

Saturday's 2-1 home defeat by fellow Championship strugglers Blackburn Rovers means QPR have now exited the competition at the third round stage for the 48th time – an embarrassing record they share with Plymouth Argyle.

Manager Ian Holloway made five changes from the side that had beaten Ipswich Town at home, R's second consecutive 2-1 win following their victory at Wolverhampton Wanderers.

But stand-in goalkeeper Matt Ingram had a stray hand in both Rovers' goals. Firstly, he palmed away one attempt against the head of his own defender Joel Lynch, at point-blank range, which ricocheted into his own net. Then he presented a gift on a plate for Liam Feeney, who made it 2-0 from close-range. Jake Bidwell's 61st minute penalty turned out to be irrelevant.

Holloway was typically forthright in his assessment: "That team, who haven't played before, will never be picked again. Simple as that."

"I wanted that team to fight and do it for each other. Unfortunately, they couldn't do it. Simple things we don't do well enough as a group."

"There will be changes. You've got to get your foot in and we didn't do it well enough. Jamie Mackie did – he tackled everybody. But where's the rest? Come on."

"I've made some changes but I wanted to win and I thought that was a strong enough team."

"I'm bitterly disappointed. We were absolutely awful in the first-half. The lack of understanding was poor. We didn't put into practice what we've been working on in the week. I thought we could've easily got back into the game in the second-half. But we just didn't do it."

"We let ourselves and our fans down today. It's very, very disappointing," Ollie added.

Holloway handed a first team debut to under-23s forward Ebere Eze but, after showing some neat touches, the youngster had to leave the field in the 18th minute with an ankle injury.

In-form striker Idrissa Sylla missed the cup tie due to concussion but Rangers will hope the Guinea international recovers in time to lead the line at third-placed Reading on Thursday (8.00pm). Sylla and Polish winger Pawel Wozolek were on target in both the most recent league wins against Ipswich and Wolves, which leave Hoops 17th in the Championship table ahead of the trip to the Madejski stadium.

■ QPR midfielder Tjaronn Chery is the latest to grab a big-money move to China.

The 28-year-old Dutchman is preparing to transfer to Chinese Super League side Guizhou Hengfeng Zhicheng.



**In-form striker Idrissa Sylla missed the cup tie due to concussion but Rangers will hope the Guinea international recovers in time to lead the line at third-placed Reading on Thursday**

Picture: Rob Newell

Chery joined Rangers from FC Groningen in July 2015 and has made 61 Championship appearances. He has scored 14 goals for the R's but only contributed four this season and has been struggling to reproduce the form he showed in his first year in W12.

His contract is due to expire in 2018 and although QPR have held talks over a new deal, the player has asked to leave Shepherd's Bush

to pursue an irresistibly lucrative Chinese offer.

Holloway said: "We've been talking to him about the possibility of getting him on a longer deal, but he'd heard about China and he needs to get as much as he can for his family while he can."

"He wanted to leave, so what could I say? Tjaronn wore the shirt with pride but he also knows what he's got to do for his family."

"He's 28 now and when you get to 28 you need a really big contract."

"Sometimes you're better off with people who really want to be here."

Holloway looks to strengthen his side during the January transfer window. He added: "We need to bring players in during the window if we can. My mind is made up on certain things."

"We need a mixture and a balance of youth and experience, especially up front."

■ FANS are intensifying their efforts to persuade Queens Park Rangers to stage a benefit match to help R's legend Stan Bowles.

Supporters' group representative Steve Flannery is due to meet QPR chief executive officer Lee Hoos at Loftus Road tomorrow (Weds) and hopes the club will confirm there and then their intention to host a fund-raising match that will help towards the cost of care for Alzheimer's sufferer Bowles.

Flannery told LWN Sport: "We are very optimistic that the club will announce the date of the match at tomorrow's meeting and that they will also cover the £50k estimated stadium costs themselves, rather than ask fans to finance everything."

"Lee Hoos said on September 6 that we could stage the match in the stadium when we have raised the £50k costs ourselves. They were not convinced a match in Stan's honour would attract a full house."

"But I heard that after meeting Stan and his family at the QPR v Reading match on October 15, the board were reconsidering taking responsibility for the stadium costs themselves."

"Wednesday is surely time for a final decision and announcement," added Flannery who, along with Neil Aaron, Sarah Benjafield-Clarke, Al Freer, Gary Wilton, Paul Moore and Darryl Still, represent the three main Facebook fan groups: QPR Pride of London, The Optimistic QPR Fans and A Pain in the Rs.

■ FORMER Fulham defender Paul Went died last Wednesday following a heart attack.

The centre-back scored on his debut for Whites in a 1-1 draw with Burnley at Craven Cottage in August 1972.

He was only at Craven Cottage for 18 months but was a virtual ever-present in that time, making 67 appearances and scoring five goals.

Went made his league debut for Leyton Orient against Preston in September 1965, aged 15 years and 327 days.

His career spanning 480 league appearances (42 goals) also included spells with Charlton Athletic (1967-72), Portsmouth (1973-76) and Cardiff City (1976-78) before he rejoined Orient (1978-80).

Paul was still working for his first club, where he had a 21-day reign as manager in 1981, as their regular corporate match day host until his death at the age of 67.

## Mikel leaves Bridge after 372 games

FROM BACK PAGE

Ake's return: "I recalled him because he has shown me that he is ready to stay in this Chelsea squad. Chelsea is his home. He was in the Championship with Watford and this season the Premier League with Bournemouth."

"As we play with three central defenders, Ake gives me important options. And he can play as a central defender, in the middle and on the right. I will see in training if he can play as a wing-back."

"He gives me solutions."

■ WITH his contract due to expire in July, John Mikel Obi has joined Chinese side Tianjin TEDA.

In 10-and-a-half years at Stamford Bridge, Nigerian midfielder Mikel played 372 times for Blues and scored six goals after signing from Norwegian club Lyn Oslo.

His £16m move was controversial in that Manchester United thought Mikel had signed for them. Along with the 2012 Champions League, the 29-year-old won two Premier League titles, the Europa League, four FA Cup and two League Cup winners' medals. Mikel captained Nigeria to African Cup of Nations title in 2013 and the Confederations Cup. He also secured a bronze medal at the Rio Olympics.

Mikel follows Brazilian Oscar, who also left Chelsea to head for China, where he will line up for Shanghai SIPG in a £60m deal.

Midfielder Marco Van Ginkel has extended his Chelsea contract to 2019 and will spend the rest of the season back in his homeland with PSV Eindhoven.

Youngster Jordan Houghton has also extended his Chelsea contract to 2018 and continues on loan at League Two leaders Doncaster Rovers.

Goalkeeper Jamal Blackman will remain on loan to Wycombe Wanderers, also in the fourth tier, until the end of the season, while Jay Dasilva has joined League One Charlton Athletic on loan for the rest of this campaign.

Youngster Izzy Brown has completed his loan spell at Rotherham United but is staying in Yorkshire to finish the season with their Championship rivals Huddersfield Town.

■ CHELSEA's youngsters continue their impressive runs. The development squad went seven games unbeaten on Friday, when they drew 2-2 away to Spurs in Premier League 2.

Goals from Mason Mount and Dominic Solanke had twice put Blues ahead but they were pegged back.

Under-23 boss Adi Viveash said: "It's a decent point away from home. To take four points from Spurs in a season is a big positive because I can't remember many times when we've done that in recent years. It was a London derby, you could see that it was a bit feisty at times, but both teams also played some good football."

"We scored two excellent goals from Mason and Dominic but we're naturally frustrated with the two we've conceded. They could both have been easily avoided but, unfortunately, that has been the story of our season, so we just have to keep working hard to rectify it."

The point leaves Blues fourth in the table ahead of Friday's trip to Leicester City.

Jody Morris' U18s returned from their festive break and continued on their winning run by thrashing Swansea 5-0 away to extend their lead in the league to seven points.

Two goals from Tariq Uwakwe and single strikes from Charlie Brown, Reece James and George McEachran blitzed the South Wales side.



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# SPORT

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Chelsea's Kurt Zouma, pictured here in action in 2015, made his return to first team duties at the weekend. Pictured top: Fulham's Chris Martin

Pictures: PA/Rob Newell

## Zouma Cup boost

### French central defender returns in style



**This week at  
STAMFORD BRIDGE**

BY PAUL LAGAN

KURT Zouma made his first start for Chelsea in 11 months following an horrendous cruciate ligament injury to his right leg.

He played the whole 90 minutes of Blues' 4-1 demolition of Peterborough United in the FA Cup third round at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.

French centre-back Zouma, 22, a £12.5million signing from St Etienne in 2014, was outstanding in the cup tie and played as if he hadn't been away.

He was naturally delighted: "It was a proud moment to be back out on the pitch," he said. "It was amazing. I'm so happy. I was out for a long time, so it was great to be back on the Bridge pitch with the lads."

"I was doing my strength training and watching the lads. They have done well with the new manager, so the recovery is actually easier – everything is going well. I learned a lot with the boys. The time out went very quickly. I was ready to face Peterborough. I wanted the team to do well, so now let's keep going and see what happens."

Jose Mourinho was still in charge when Zouma suffered the knee injury against Manchester United last season

but he has been impressed with the new manager.

"Antonio Conte talked to me, like he talked to all the players when he arrived," he said. "He told me, 'be careful with your recovery, I want you to play'."

"It helps when you know you have the trust of the manager. On our pre-season tour I went with the players and was very close to them."

Sunday's match against Peterborough will also be remembered for the red card handed out by referee Kevin Friend to veteran defender John Terry. How much of an influence is Terry to him?

"He is the skipper," said Zouma. "He has always given me good advice. He has led Chelsea for a while and he's still doing it. He is an amazing captain. He talks to me about tactics, the positions of opposition strikers – everything."

So what else has changed at the club in the past 11 months?

"The only difference now from then is that we are playing five at the back, with three central defenders rather than two in a back four," he said. "The manager likes to do lots of tactics and he gives us a lot of videos to watch."

During the game Zouma went down following a tough challenge and was flat out on the pitch for a few seconds. But even that did not unsettle him – quite the opposite.

"I said to myself, 'yeah, welcome back'. But anything can happen in the game and when I had this shock I just

said to myself (in English) 'welcome back'."

Zouma had played four warm-up games for the U23 side ahead of his first team recall.

"I played two 90 minutes and a couple of 60 minutes but that was a long time ago."

Was he ever worried about returning to action? Not a bit of it. I was ready in my head to play, to face the contact, everything. I knew that I needed to be patient and listened to my body. The medical staff were very good to me."

Zouma missed last summer's Euro 2016 finals, where he would have been a certain starter for the host nation.

"Yeah, it was tough," he admits. "I was a French supporter. It was tough, as we lost the final (to Portugal), but this is the life of a footballer. The next step is to play more, then we will see where we are with the national side."

Was it also tough to see Chelsea do well in his absence?

"No, not tough," he said. "I was injured but still proud and happy to see the boys do well." "I learn more through them winning than losing."

When Zouma was not on the treatment table, he spent the remaining time at home. "I was with my kids and my wife and I went back to France sometimes," he said.

■ **ANTONIO Conte** said that the club will probably appeal against John Terry's sending off against Peterbor-

ough. "I think it was not the right decision by the referee. John did not take out the opponent (Lee Angol) and, also, Branislav Ivanovic was covering him. It's a pity. I have to respect the referee's decision but in this case I think we will appeal," Conte said.

Should the appeal fail, Terry – who received a straight red card for the sliding challenge – would be suspended for this Saturday's (5.30pm) visit to champions Leicester City.

Terry's contract runs out in the summer but Conte would not be drawn on the 36-year-old's future.

He said: "This type of decision must be made by the club and not by me alone. I'm pleased for him. He is showing great commitment when he does not play. He helps in the changing room – a good man. We have many games still to play, then we will see."

■ **NATHAN Ake** has returned to Chelsea from his season-long loan spell at Bournemouth.

Dutchman Ake, who can play in multiple defensive positions, made 12 appearances for the Cherries and also notched up three goals.

It's anticipated that he has been brought back as cover for underperforming left-back Marcos Alonso. LWN Sport understands that the Spain defender has been troubled by a muscular injury for the past month.

Chelsea boss Antonio Conte said of

**TURN TO PAGE 35**

## 'Joka' is not amused by Martin saga

**Focus on Craven Cottage**

FULHAM head coach Slaviša Jokanović is to be applauded for his defiant stance in the sorry Chris Martin saga.

The striker agreed a season-long loan deal but wants to cut short his time in SW6 and return to his parent club, Derby County, who have offered him an improved deal.

In an attempt to force Fulham to let him go, it appears the 28-year-old has declared himself unfit to play in Whites' last three matches.

He claims he has a hamstring injury but 'Joka' isn't buying it and points out that the club's medical team can find nothing wrong with the Scotland international.

He said: "We signed the contract, all three sides – Derby, Fulham and Chris Martin – and there is no option for a recall."

"This is nice because they offer him more money and more years but this solution does not exist."

"He was going to stay until the end of the season. That is my position and Fulham's position. And that's it."

"When we played Derby three or four weeks ago Steve McClaren asked me about Chris Martin because he explained he likes this player."

"And I explained he is under contract, I want to keep him and recommended that he look in the market for another option. But he must not have understood my English," added the Serb.

After scoring his seventh goal for Fulham in their 2-0 Boxing Day victory at Ipswich, Martin ruled himself out of their final Championship game of 2016, the visit to Reading that was abandoned at half-time due to fog. He was also unavailable for the 2-1 home defeat by Brighton on January 2 and was probably having a lie-in while his team-mates were winning their FA Cup third round tie at Cardiff City on Sunday morning.

Who can blame Jokanovic for digging his heels in? Why should he release a key player to a promotion-chasing rival – Derby are now seventh in the table, on the cusp of the play-offs and just four points above Fulham?

Martin certainly wasn't missed in South Wales, where a meagre crowd of only 5,199 could summon the enthusiasm to turn out for the ludicrously timed 11.30am kick-off. Those who did make the effort saw the West Londoners recover quickly from conceding an eighth minute deflected free-kick by Anthony Pilkington to win more comfortably than the 2-1 result may suggest, thanks to first half goals from Stefan Johansen – his fifth in seven matches – and Ryan Sessegnon.

This was Whites' seventh away victory (all competitions) in 13 matches this season, whereas they managed only five wins on the road in 25 outings the previous campaign.

Fulham hope to maintain their promotion challenge at home against Barnsley on Saturday. Three points at Craven Cottage would see them leapfrog the eighth-placed Tykes.

**Tony McDonald**